

## LIVING WITH A SEPTIC SYSTEM

If you are living in a home that has an in-ground sanitary waste disposal system (also known as a septic system) rather than a municipal sewerage you will need to provide periodic maintenance. These types of systems can cost \$20,000 or more to replace. To keep the system working properly requires care and maintenance on your part.

### CARE

- 1) Conserve water (90-95% of all waste)
- 2) Do not dispose of the following in drains:
  - a.) *Fats & Grease*
  - b.) *Vegetable Trimmings*
  - c.) *Ground Garbage*
  - d.) *Sanitary Napkins*
  - e.) *Paper Diapers*
  - f.) *Coffee Grounds – Tea Leaves*
  - g.) *Cooking Oils*
  - h.) *Motor Oil or any petroleum products*
  - i.) *Pesticides*
  - j.) *Disinfectants*
  - k.) *Bleach*
  - l.) *Detergents (Other than Biodegradable)*
  - m.) *Paint Thinner*
  - n.) *Photographic Developing Fluid*
  - o.) *Salt Brine from Water Softener*
  - p.) *Other Similar Products*

### MAINTENANCE

- 1) Periodic pumping of septic tank (maximum every 3 years)
- 2) Check ground around leaching area especially in the spring. Report any wet spots or odors to Local Department of Health.
- 3) Don't allow trucks or other heavy vehicles to travel over leaching area.

You should have a record plan that shows the location of the septic tank (where the solids are separated and partially digested), the junction boxes (used to distribute the effluent) and the leaching system (used to distribute the effluent to the soil for final treatment). If you do not have one please contact your local Health Department. With proper care and maintenance the system should work properly for many years. Keep a record of pumping of the tank in a conspicuous location and set up a schedule with a tank cleaning contractor. Should problems occur contact the Local Health Department.

### MAINTENANCE RECORD

Year Septic System Installed:

Name of Installer:

Dates Pumped: