



MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
STORMWATER PROGRAM



THREE REASONS TO CARE



YOUR
PROPERTY



YOUR
WATER



YOUR
NEIGHBORS

MAINTENANCE CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION

EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR SYSTEM BY USING WATER EFFICIENTLY

The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the Septic System. Efficient water use can improve the operation of the system, help protect the environment and increase the lifespan of your system.

Here are some tips to help conserve water and extend the life of your system:

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| 1. Install high-efficiency showerheads. | 5. Make sure all faucets are completely turned off when not in use. |
| 2. Turn off faucets while shaving or brushing your teeth. | 6. Maintain your plumbing to eliminate leaks |
| 3. Run the washing machine and/or dishwasher only when they are full. | 7. Install aerators in the faucets in your kitchen and bathroom. |
| 4. Do not use toilets or sinks for disposing of solids that can go in the trash. Minimize the use of garbage disposals. | 8. Replace old dishwashers, toilets, and washing machines with new, high efficiency models. |

For more information on water conservation, please visit www.BeWaterWise.com.

PROPER MAINTENANCE



MINIMIZE GARBAGE/SOLIDS GOING INTO THE SYSTEM

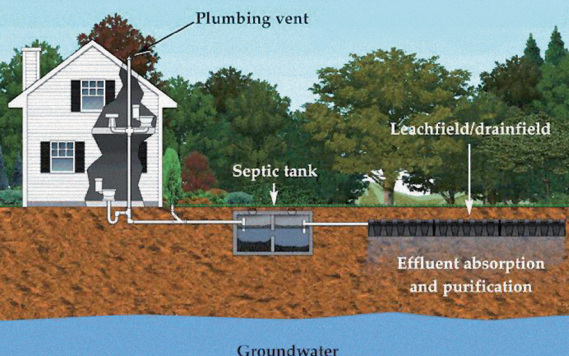
- ✓ Loading a system with organic matter is one of the quickest ways to clog up your system.
- ✓ Minimize the use of a garbage disposal.
- ✓ Use a drain catch and put food waste in the garbage.
- ✓ Never dispose of solids such as kitty litter, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, diapers, cigarettes, etc. in the toilet or sink.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- ✓ Never dispose of household chemicals or cooking oil into your system.
- ✓ Collect all hazardous waste in your home and bring them to a **free** Collection Center.
- ✓ Visit sbcountystormwater.org or call 1 800 OILY CAT for collection centers in the region.



KEEP ORGANIC MATTER OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM BY THROWING IT IN THE TRASH.



MAINTAIN ALL RECORDS

- ✓ Inspect your system (every 1-3 years) and pump your tank (generally every 3-5 years) to reduce your chance of system failure.
- ✓ Know where your tank/system is located. Avoid driving over, placing heavy equipment or doing construction over those areas.

For further information on septic system maintenance, please visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/index.cfm>

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The Top Three Reasons Why the Care of your
Septic System is so Important

**YOU WILL HELP TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY
AND LOCAL WATERWAYS BY PREVENTING SANITARY
OVERFLOWS THAT CAN ENTER THE
STORM DRAIN SYSTEM.**

YOU WILL PROTECT THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY.

**YOU WILL PREVENT NEIGHBORS FROM WHISPERING
ABOUT “THAT SMELL.”**

For unincorporated areas of the County, contact the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health at (909) 383-3060 for more information on permitting septic systems. For all other areas, please contact your local building department.



sbcountystormwater.org

To report illegal dumping call 877 WASTE 18

Big Bear • Chino • Chino Hills • Colton • Fontana • Grand Terrace • Highland
Loma Linda • Montclair • Ontario • Rancho Cucamonga • Redlands • Rialto
San Bernardino • San Bernardino County • San Bernardino County Flood Control District
Upland • Yucaipa