

# **A-NORTON**

## **SEPTIC CONTRACTING**

### **TIPS TO AVOID TROUBLE (DO'S & DON'TS OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS CARE)**

- **DO** have your tank pumped out and system inspected every 2 to 3 years by a professional septic contractor.
- **DO** keep a record of pumping, inspections, and other maintenance.
- **DO** practice water conservation. Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets, run washing machines and dishwashers only when full, avoid long showers, and use water-saving features in faucets, shower heads and toilets. Front-loading washing machines use less water than top-loading.
- **DO** learn the location of your septic system and drainfield. Keep a sketch of it handy for service visits. If your system has flow diversion valve, learn its location, turn it once a year. Flow diverters can add many years to the life of your system.
- **DO** divert roof drains and surface water from driveways and hillsides away from the septic system. Keep sump pumps and house footing drains away from your septic system as well.
- **DO** take leftover hazardous household chemicals to your approved hazardous waste collection center for disposal. Use bleach, disinfectants and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels.
  
- **DON'T** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system. The area over the drain field should be left undisturbed with only a mowed grass cover. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage your drain lines.
- **DON'T** use commercial septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and some may hurt your system in long run.
- **DON'T** use your toilet as a trash can by dumping non-degradables down your toilet or drains. Also, don't poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harming chemicals down the drain. They can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater. Keep the following materials out of your septic system.
- **NON-DEGRADABLES:** grease, disposable diapers, plastics, cigarettes, tampons, etc.  
**POISONS:** gasoline, oil, paint thinner, pesticides, antifreeze, etc.
- **DON'T** cover the absorption field with a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. Grass is the best cover for the field. The grass will not only prevent erosion, but will help remove excess water.