



COVID-19 and YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Septic owners should be mindful that every septic system has a finite capacity.

If your system is stressed or overloaded beyond its capacity, you could end up with a messy, costly failure.

Self-isolation & shelter-in-place policies can stress septic systems – Are you spending more time at home and trying to keep the Coronavirus at bay? This can increase the load on your septic system. More food is being prepared at home. Many people are washing more dishes.

More laundry than usual - Many families are washing clothes, linens, towels, etc. more often, especially if someone in the home is self-isolating or quarantined. Some people are stripping down and washing their clothes after having been outside.

All this extra water usage and food waste going down drains increases the stress on septic systems.

Disinfecting wipes & other toxins - In an effort to prevent the virus from spreading, many families are using higher than normal amounts of wipes and cleaning products

We all have enough to worry about with the health and economic impacts of the Coronavirus. A septic system backup or leach field failure right now on top of everything else would be disastrous.

Septic Care Checklist

So what can you do to reduce the stress on your septic system and prevent overloading it?

- **Never use bleach & minimize antibacterial products** in a home with a septic system
- **Never flush wipes** of any kind – there is so such thing as a flushable wipe in a septic system.
- **Use regular, good old fashioned soap for hand washing.** There is no need to use soap containing harsh anti-bacterial agents which are toxic to the microbes in your septic system.
- **Never do more than one water consuming activity** at a time – e.g. do not do dishes and laundry at the same time as this can overload your system.
- Only do Laundry when you have a **full load** and only do **one load per day**
- **Take showers of 5 minutes or less** instead of having a bath, which uses more water.
- **Never use chemical products** in your toilet tank, like cleaning pucks that turn the water blue. Stop using them.
- **Add more needed bacteria and enzymes to your system** by adding 7 scoops of **Ecoethic Septic Treatment** once a month (*available at Organic Times in Minden* <http://www.organictimesminden.com/>)
- **Fix leaky plumbing fixtures** especially **toilet flappers** that can allow hundreds of gallons of extra water to leak into your septic system.
- If you have not had your **septic tank pumped** in 5 years, contact a septic service company (they are considered an essential service) and arrange to get it done as soon as possible.

The Basics – reduce water use and spread it out over the day and week

- **Do not let any antibacterial product down your drains &**
 - **Supplement the good bacteria and enzymes once a month**