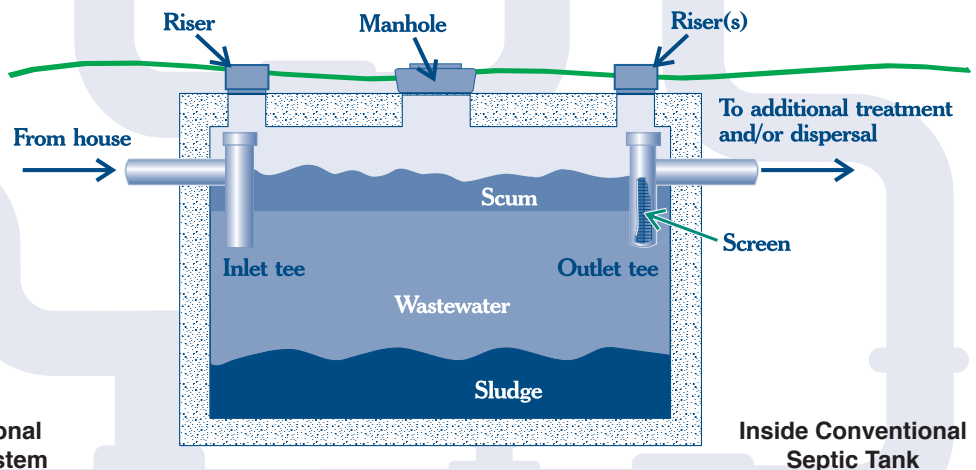
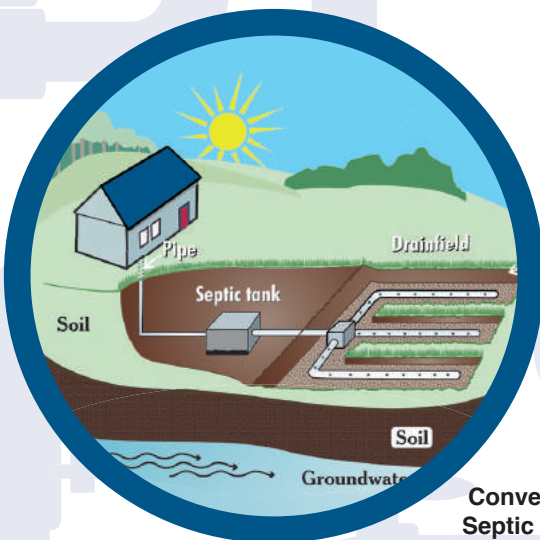


THE DDO'S

of Septic Systems








- ✓ DO learn the location of your septic system and drainfield.
Keep a sketch of it with your maintenance records for service visits.
- ✓ DO keep a detailed record of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permits issued, and other maintenance activities.
- ✓ DO have your septic system inspected annually.
- ✓ DO have your septic tank pumped out regularly by a licensed professional.
- ✓ DO keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumpings.
Install risers if necessary.
- ✓ DO call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system, or if there are any signs of system failure.
- ✓ DO conserve water to avoid overloading the system.
Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.
- ✓ DO divert other sources of water, like roof drains and house footing drains, away from the septic system.
- ✓ DO contact the Kerr County Environmental Health Department (830-896-9020) with questions about your system or for a list of licensed professionals.



THE DON'TS

of Septic Systems



-  **DON'T** go down into a septic tank. Toxic gases are produced by the natural treatment processes in septic tanks and can kill in minutes. Extreme care should be taken when inspecting a septic tank, even when just looking in.
-  **DON'T** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.
-  **DON'T** plant anything over or near the drainfield except grass. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the drain lines.
-  **DON'T** dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover the drainfield with a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. The area over the drainfield should have only a grass cover. The grass will not only prevent erosion, but will help remove excess water.
-  **DON'T** use septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and some may even be harmful to your system.
-  **DON'T** use your toilet as a trash can or pour harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.
-  **DON'T** use a garbage disposal excessively. Garbage disposals will increase the amount of solids in the septic system.

Take care of your septic system and it will take care of you

Why Maintain Your Septic System?

- Maximize your system's lifespan – it can cost \$3,000 - \$10,000 to replace
- Keep wastewater away from your family and pets
- Safeguard drinking water sources
- Protect your home's resale value
- Keep pollution out of groundwater and surface water

To learn how your aerobic or conventional septic system works visit:

www.ugra.org/septic.html

