

## Your Septic System

**Why Care** - Septic Systems are the # 1 polluter of your lake and cost \$10's of thousands to replace. Operating it properly minimizes the damage it does to your lake, protects your investment, your lake and your family's health.

**Two basic rules** to living with a septic system are – **do not use anything that will harm the good bacteria in your system** and minimize and spread out your water use

### DON'T...

- Use any product that harms the good bacteria your system thrives on including:
  - Bleach
  - Supermarket dishwasher detergents
  - Antibacterial soaps
  - Rinse aids for your dishwasher
  - Cream Cleansers – most have bleach
  - Drain Cleaners - Use *Eco Ethic* Septic Treatment to keep your drains clean
  - Automatic Toilet Bowl Cleaners – blue is not green
- Do more than 1 load of laundry or dishes per day
- Put chemicals and contaminants down the drains as these will kill the beneficial bacteria necessary for your system to function.
- Ignore odours, sogginess around the septic area or back up drains. These can all be signs of serious septic troubles.

### DO...

- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system.
- Have your tank inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years.
- Keep the septic area clear of trees and other large deep rooting vegetation.
- Use soaps and detergents that clearly state on the package – *No phosphates or bleaches*.
- Use vinegar or lemon juice as a rinse aid in your dishwasher
- Install an effluent filter that will reduce the amount of solids entering the leaching bed and help to prevent clogging.
- Use *Eco Ethic* Septic Treatment once a month and first thing in the spring if you were absent during winter



For More Information and Septic Tips visit [www.cohpoa.org](http://www.cohpoa.org)