



Information about septic system management from LECVHOA resident Bruce Anderson, to release with the newsletter concerning the 11/10/2021 LECVHOA Board meeting.

This is prompted by a recent conversation with a relatively long time owner who was completely unaware that their homeowner septic system needs both care and regular maintenance. Having grown up in a house with a septic system I was aware of this. For folks who grew up in houses attached to municipal sewer systems however, it is completely understandable they wouldn't be aware of these responsibilities.

Lack of regular maintenance can lead to failed septic systems. Since a failed septic system can not only be expensive to repair/replace for the homeowner, but also could represent a threat to our LECVHOA community water system by spread of microorganisms, it is important to raise awareness.

Remember, just because some products say they are "septic safe" does not mean that they are.

Consider this information, which I found on one contractor's website:

1. Never dispose of these items into your septic system: feminine hygiene products; cleaning, baby, or sanitary wipes; cooking oils or grease; hazardous materials; or any other non-biodegradable products.
2. Avoid installing a water softener. Be aware that most septic systems are not designed to handle a water softener system. The salt from a water softener can damage the leach field and hydraulic loading can saturate the field.
3. If you have a garbage disposal, use it at a minimum, if at all.
4. Make certain that none of the water fixtures in your home are leaking. A dripping sink or running toilet can inject hundreds of gallons of water into your septic system and saturate your leach field.
5. If possible, vary laundry cycles over a 2-3 day period as opposed to washing it all in one day.
6. If your system is equipped with an effluent filter, the filter should be cleaned annually.
7. Have your septic tank serviced on a regular basis. The recommended guideline is to pump your septic tank every 3-5 years.

Pitkin County has presented a helpful septic system information brochure at <https://pitkincounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/622/OWTS-Use-Permit-Brochure-PDF?bidId=>