

The Following Items are Harmful to your OSSF:

Inert Materials

Do not flush: plastic, rubber, scouring pads, dental floss, cigarette filters, bandages, hair, mop strings, lint, rags, cloth or towels as these do not degrade in an on-site treatment system. Inert materials will build up solids and lead to system malfunction, clogging or increased pump out frequency.

Paper Products

Do not flush: disposable diapers, paper towels, baby wipes, facial tissues, moist toilet paper as these are not designed to dissolve in an on-site treatment system. Excessive amounts of toilet tissue will not decompose. These can lead to system malfunction, back up or increased pump out frequency.

Food Wastes

Do not put: animal fats, grease, coffee grounds, citrus rinds, or egg shells down the sink
Garbage disposal use should be limited to waste that cannot be scooped out and thrown in the trash. Spoiled dairy products and yeasts from home breweries or baking may cause excessive growth of microbes that do not degrade sewage.

Medicine

Do not flush: baby wipes, lotioned, scented or quilted toilet tissue, female sanitary products, cotton balls or swabs, condoms or expired medicines/antibiotics.

Chemicals & Toxins

These items kill the microbes necessary for treatment: paint, paint thinner, solvents, volatile substances, drain cleaners, automotive fluids, fuels, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, metals, disinfectants, sanitizers, bleach, mop water, excessive use of household chemicals, and *backwash from water softener regeneration. Septic tank additives generally do more harm than good. Automatic toilet bowl disinfection tablets (blue, clear or otherwise) will kill the organisms needed to consume waste.

Laundry Practices

On-site systems must process the water as it enters the system. Laundry should be spread out over the week, not all run at one time. Excessive use of detergents, especially those containing bleach, can affect system performance. Liquid detergents are recommended over powders. Fabric softener sheets are recommended over liquid softeners. Bleach should be used sparingly and at half the rate indicated on the container.

Clear Water Waste

A/C discharge lines, floor drains, gutters, whole house water treatment systems and sump pumps can increase the flow to your treatment system. These flows can at least disrupt, if not destroy your treatment process.

* Water softeners and reverse osmosis devices can be utilized with an OSSF, however there are numerous guidelines that must be adhered to in order to maintain the integrity of the OSSF. Contact your designer, installer, maintenance provider, or regulatory authority for complete information.