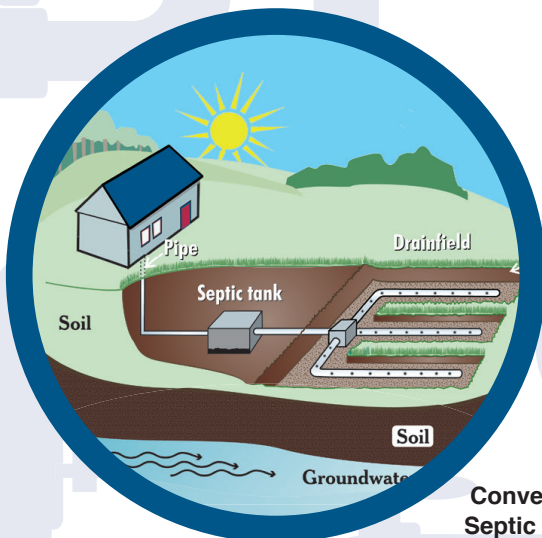


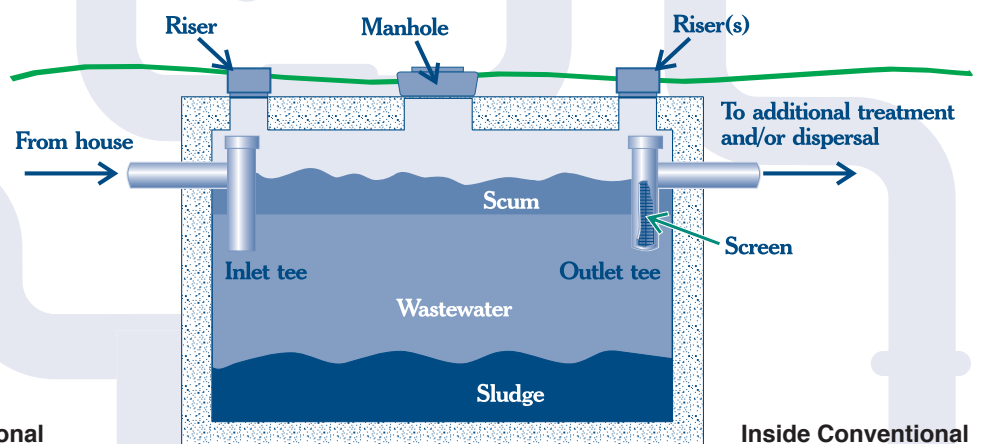
# THE D.O.'S

## 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.



Conventional  
Septic System










Inside Conventional  
Septic Tank

# 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](http://www.ugra.org/septic)

