



**SCHWEITZER  
WATER COMPANY**

**SCHWEITZER  
UTILITY COMPANY**

Water • Wastewater • Roads

## **Schweitzer Utility Company** **Septic Tank Maintenance Recommendations**

Schweitzer Utility Company (SUC) operates wastewater collection and treatment system for the entire Schweitzer Community. The following information will help you understand how our system works and how you can best maintain your individual septic system.

### **YOUR SEPTIC TANK IS NOT CONNECTED TO A DRAINFIELD.**

Septic drainfields are not allowed in the Schweitzer Community. All waste water flows from your septic tank to SUC's sewer mains and to our storage and treatment system.

### **Septic System Maintenance**

**Septic system maintenance and service (which includes your septic tank and service line from your house to our collection mains) is the property owner's responsibility!**

#### **Key Maintenance Tasks**

- **Pump Regularly:** Have your septic tank pumped every 3-5 years (full time occupation) or every 6-8 years for part time or seasonal use. Two local companies who pump septic tanks and are familiar with the Schweitzer Community are:
  - KG&T Septic Service: 208-267-5110
  - Ace Septic: 208-263-5219They can provide maintenance inspections as well.
- **Pressure systems:** We recommend having your pump station pump, electrical and alarm system checked every few years. More often with heavy use.
- **Locate Your System:** Know where your tank, clean-out and service lateral line are located and note them on a map of the property.

#### **What "TO" Flush-The "Pee, Poo & Paper" Rule**

- **Only Flush Toilet Paper** with human waste ("septic safe" toilet paper preferred)

#### **What "NOT TO" Put Down Drains and Avoid (The "Don'ts")**

- **Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG):** Pour these into a container to harden, then into the trash; don't pour them down the sink.
- **Trash Everything Else and Don't Flush:** Wipes (even "flushable" ones), feminine hygiene and sanitary products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, paper towels, coffee grounds, grease, medicines, fish/turtle/reptile aquarium base sand/grit/gravel, and cat litter.
- **Chemicals:** Avoid pouring household cleaners, paint thinners, pesticides, or strong chemicals into drains, they kill the beneficial bacteria needed to keep your septic tank healthy!

- **Laundry:** When doing laundry, try not to use bleach, or use the least amount possible (it kills beneficial bacterial), and do not use excessive amounts of laundry detergent, especially powdered detergents which can add to a buildup of solids in the tank if it does not dissolve completely.
- **Antibacterial Soaps:** Again, these soaps kill the beneficial bacteria needed to keep your septic tank healthy, use them sparingly!
- **Drain Cleaners/Openers:** Avoid chemical drain cleaners/openers for a clogged drain (they kill beneficial bacterial!). Instead, use boiling water and/or a drain snake.
- **Garbage Disposals:** Limit their use as they add undigested solids to your tank that don't break down as readily.

#### **Water Use**

- **Conserve Water:** Wash full loads of laundry. Run full loads in the dishwasher. As opposed to multiple short loads.
- **Redirect Runoff:** Ensure landscaping diverts rainwater and snowmelt away from the septic tank to keep water from "pooling" around the tank.

#### **Other Tips**

- **Add Bacteria:** Using septic additives like yeast or oxygen tablets can help, but proper pumping and water management are key. Additives can be particularly helpful for tanks that sit dormant for long periods of time (ie seasonal use).
- **Sewer gas:** If your residence sits dormant for long periods of time (ie seasonal use), it is possible that the water in your sink traps, toilets, floor drains, washing machines will evaporate, allowing sewer gas to back up into your house. Periodically running water or flushing will keep the traps/toilets full. You can also add a tablespoon or so of vegetable oil or similar cooking oil to the trap. The oil will float on top of the water and help reduce evaporation.
- **Document:** Keep records of all maintenance, including pumping and inspections, to track your system's health.

If you have questions, or would like additional information on proper maintenance of a septic tank, please see the EPA's guide on "How to Care for Your Septic System" at:

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system> ***(The information on drainfields contained in the publication does not pertain to your Schweitzer septic system and should be disregarded).***

Sincerely,

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