1. Pump septic tank every 5 – 7years to empty solids from the tank which will accumulate over time.
2. Uncover the distribution box to be sure all lines in the drainfield are receiving water equally to prevent overloading one or two trenches.
3. Install water saving fixtures.
4. Spread laundry washings out during the week. Wash one or two loads in a day rather than saving for a wash day.
5. Avoid overuse of disinfectants, which will kill helpful microorganisms.
6. Check for plumbing leaks. The amount of water produced from leaks can add up and potentially destroy the drainfield.
7. Before installing structures, home additions, swimming pools, decks, patios, parking or other soil disturbing practices, be aware of required setback distances to your sewerage system.
8. Do not add a garbage disposal; this produces extra waste and water to the septic system.
9. Use water sparingly, especially during rain events.
10. Do not pour grease, coffee grinds, or chemicals down the drain. The septic tank is not designed to break down these items.
11. Do not flush sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, plastics, or synthetic rubber products down the toilet.
12. Do not plant hydrophilic (water loving) vegetation near any of the septic system components. The roots from this vegetation will invade, clog and destroy the septic system. Ex. Maples, willows, poplars and Alanthis “paradise” or “stink” trees.
13. Do not allow woody vegetation to overgrow a drainfield. A maintained grass covering is best.
14. Do not add septic tank additives to the septic system. These do not work and some may actually harm the “good bacteria” in the septic tank.
15. Divert downspouts and runoff away from the drainfield to avoid saturating the area with excess water.
16. Do not drive or park vehicles over the drainfield. This could lead to soil compaction and/or knock the distribution box out of level.
17. Keep a record of the septic system design layout and how often the septic tank has been pumped out.
18. Shallow systems (less than 3’) should be carefully maintained. Do not drive over or disturb other than to maintain a grass covering. Crossing driveways should be paved.

***Ignoring septic system maintenance can lead to headaches, inconvenience and expensive repairs.***