



Paper Products Your Septic System Should Avoid

Just as it is important to have your family recognize the significance of energy conservation to reduce your environmental footprint and home operating expense, an understanding of your septic system's requirements is essential. Your entire family – young children and adults – need to know the “do’s”, and especially the “don’ts”, for your system to provide its imperceptible daily service. They may not realize it, but everyone contributes to your septic system.

Besides body waste, the most common item received in your septic system is toilet paper. All septic systems are designed to process toilet paper, a seemingly harmless essential. But certain toilet papers can be a culprit for clogging a system. Avoid quilted, dyed or fragranced paper. The natural bacteria in your system cannot eat certain dyes.

Toilet paper tends to float and accumulate as a bio-solid clogger in screens, pipes and floats if not dissolved quickly. That can result in back-ups. Look for brands labeled “fast dissolving” or “biodegradable”. Many common toilet paper brands are so strong they tend to sink immediately in the first chamber of a septic system. You want toilet paper to float in the first chamber of the septic system until it dissolves.

We all see television commercials touting strong and absorbent toilet paper. They may be nice for your posterior but they can clog your septic system and deplete your pocket book with costly repairs. If you want to see how your preferred toilet paper breaks down, do a simple test. Place a couple of sheets in a clear glass jar of water and shake it. If it shows sign of breaking down and shredding, it is safe for your system. Don't use any brand that remains in its original form.



Nearly all other paper products are bad for septic systems. Napkins, wipes, paper towels and other thicker papers need to go in the trash, not septic system. Non-bleached paper (brown in color) takes longer to break down, increasing your level of bio-solids and the need to pump them out.

A sensitive topic not often discussed with family members is the disposal of personal items such as feminine hygiene products. Sanitary napkins, tampons, facial wipes for removing make-up, cotton-tipped swabs and dental floss should never be flushed in to a septic system. Again, think about the television commercials' messages stating how strong and absorbent their products are. This strength and absorbency means that they will not break down. Other personal items such as condoms and bandages should be disposed of in your trash, not septic system.

The world of septic systems includes 25 percent of US homes, including upwards of 50 percent of all homes in Florida and Washington. And in the perfect world of septic systems, the only things that should enter them are water, human waste and bio-degradable toilet paper.

Bio-Microbics, a world leading manufacturer of decentralized wastewater, septic system enhancements and storm water systems products, has developed a system to fit in existing residential septic system designed to enhance or repair ones that have biologically failed.

RetroFAST® systems are designed for residential strength wastewater in 3 specific sizes designed to fix or prevent soggy lawns, foul odors and plumbing backups. The RetroFAST system inserts into an existing manhole (16" – 18") without the need for heavy equipment. The installation can be accomplished in about half a day, without disrupting landscaping with expensive digging.

USEPA ETV-tested, it provides a simple upgrade to a conventional system. The proven Fixed Integrated Treatment Technology (FITT®) is one of the best methods of treatment for advanced wastewater treatment systems.

It can also be installed in new installations where sites and regulations allow. It is designed

to deliver high levels of treatment (from day one) to help ensure the clogging layers never form. The RetroFAST system constantly provides dissolved oxygen (DO) rich effluent into the drain/leach field.

RetroFAST systems come with Bio-Microbics' exclusive S.O.S. – Save Our Septic – warranty program.

If after one year from time of the startup date the RetroFAST system does not eliminate the symptoms, the property owner is entitled to a full refund for the equipment.

It is a very cost effective solution that meets environmental standards with long term results. Cost varies, depending upon individual septic systems. But for many homeowners, the cost of the equipment is under \$2,000. It may qualify for certain green certifications in your area.

Bio-Microbics' RetroFAST system is an effective and environmentally sound alternative to replacing an entire septic system at a fraction of the cost.

About the sponsor: For over 35 years Bio-Microbics, located in Shawnee, Kansas, has a real world operating history with more than 42,000 installations in over 60 countries. Through a worldwide distributor network, Bio-Microbics has been recognized as a leader in exporting decentralized equipment with receiving the 2011 KS Exporter of the Year Award and the 2012 President's "E" Award for Excellence in Exports. For more information and testimonial application video, visit www.biomicrobics.com.