

Anti-bacterial Products

A septic system recycles household wastewater back into the environment by removing pathogens (disease carrying organisms) and most nutrients through bacteria action, within the tank and through the soil treatment. Please see septic system purpose and need for additional information, via our Homeowner page.

Today we use anti-bacterial products to clean our home environment of bacteria and germs, however, the use of these products can impact your septic system. The use of anti-bacterial or disinfection products in the home can and do destroy both good and bad bacteria in the septic tank environment. Average usage of these products can impact the bacteria action which can usually recover, without long-term impact. Excessive use can cause significant and even total destruction of the bacteria population. When this happens, untreated septage can flow through the tank and into the drainfield, clogging the pores, ultimately shortening the life span of the system.

Research is ongoing regarding what constitutes “excessive, ” and whether any individual product or combination of products pose more of a threat than others. Experts do recommend the following suggestions, which can easily be done by the homeowner to best protect their septic system and their own back yard environment:

- Do not use ‘every flush toilet bowl cleaners
- Minimize the use of antibacterial soap
- Reduce use of drain cleaners by minimizing the amount of hair, grease and food particles that go down the drain
- Use the minimum amount of soap, detergent and bleaches necessary to do the job. Frequent use of detergents with bleach additives is considered excessive use of bleach
- Route chlorine-treated water from swimming pools and hot tubs outside of the septic system, and septic system area
- Do not flush garbage or trash, like bleach pop up wipes

Following the above practices will prevent the loss of bacteria throughout the system. Bacterial additives (enzymes, starters) are not necessary and will not compensate for excessive use of anti-bacterial products.

In an effort to be super clean and protective of the family’s health through the use of anti-bacterial products in our homes, we might compromise our health in another way – by damaging our on-site sewage treatment systems.

Please contact our educated staff at 603-225-9057 or 1-800-287-9057 for more information.