Specialists in Design, Installation & Maintenance of Sewage and Waste Water Treatment Systems
www.alroservices.co.uk

Unit 13 Hameldown Road
Exeter Road Industrial Estate
Okehampton
Devon EX20 1UB
Tel: 01837 650170
Fax: 01837 53036

SEPTIC TANK PROCESS
DO'S AND DON'TS

Your Septic Tank uses colonies of live natural micro-organisms to partially break down pollutants in sewage. Many chemicals used in households and commercial establishments can inhibit or kill theses micro-organisms; particularly if used in excessive amounts.

These micro-organisms, will usually recover in time. But in the meanwhile one of the most obvious symptoms may be an unpleasant smell.

The following notes are intended to provide guidance only on materials that can or cannot be allowed to enter the system, but it is not an exhaustive list and the golden rule is "if in doubt - leave it out."

CLEANING FLUIDS AND POWDERS:

DO - use in moderation. Most of those on the domestic market are acceptable, but only use the minimum required to carry out effective cleaning i.e. As per the manufacturer's instructions. Excessive use of biological washing powders can cause degradation of the micro-organisms within the Septic Tank which can then lead to odour problems, Non biological detergents, without enzymes may be substituted.

DO NOT - pour neat disinfectant or bleach down sinks or outside gullies. If these are smelly it usually indicates a build-up of decaying material or a plumbing problem and should be dealt with accordingly. A bottle of bleach in a Septic Tank could be a lethal dose for the micro-organisms.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE:

DO NOT - allow roof & surface water drainage, or discharges from swimming pools or ponds to enter the Septic Tank.

MOTORING FLUIDS:

DO NOT - allow oil, petrol, brake fluid, antifreeze etc. to enter the Septic Tank.

FATS, OILS AND GREASE

DO NOT - allow fats, oils and grease such as fat from frying pans and chip pans to enter the Septic Tank

HOME & GARDEN PRODUCTS

DO NOT - allow weed-killers, insecticides, fungicides or any other gardening chemicals to enter the drains.

DO NOT - allow photographic developing fluids, creosote, paint thinners, white spirit, etc. to enter the drains.

TOILETS

DO NOT - allow nappies, sanitary towels, plastics, rags, soft toys, tennis balls etc. to be flushed down the toilet. This may seem obvious but it is amazing what gets flushed down the loo! Even so-called disposable nappies and sanitary towels do not degrade in the Septic Tank and can lead to a malfunction.

Remember, your Septic Tank contains micro-organisms which can be inhibited if 'unfriendly' substances are allowed to enter the system, if this situation should occur consult **ALRO** for further advice.