



December 22, 2016

Happy Holidays!

All of us here at Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Management Association wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Protecting Septic Systems Over the Holidays

It's the most wonderful time of the year. . . except for the septic system. The holidays provide families and friends a great opportunity to come together, celebrate and reconnect. This celebrating usually involves extra cooking, cleaning, bathing and clothes washing. This can put significant strain on the septic system.

Guests from the city may not understand the risks to flushing the wrong things into the septic tank or that heavier than normal water usage can have a negative impact. A chat with houseguests on what not to do can help avoid a costly repair.

Let's not all bathe at once – Try to avoid having the dishwasher and washing machine running while everyone is getting in their morning shower. Running the dishwasher and the washing machine later in the evening or even over night can help avoid hydraulic overload of the septic system.

Do Preventive Maintenance – Septic systems require maintenance. A maintenance inspection prior to the holiday season can help avoid that panicked call to a contractor on Christmas Day and the attendant extra charges for an emergency visit. A maintenance inspection will confirm proper functioning of the pump and other electronics as well as reveal if the tank needs to be pumped out.

Don't flush anything but human waste and toilet paper -

- Filling up your tank with organics such as food waste either by flushing or running it through a garbage grinder cause strain on your tank. The organics will build up in the tank and cause a need for more frequent pumping.
 - Just because something is marketed as flushable doesn't mean it should be flushed. The following items do not belong in the septic tank: feminine hygiene products, wipes of any kind, condoms, and anything else that is not human waste or toilet paper. Making sure your customers understand how to take care of their septic system, might help to ensure you don't get an emergency call out just as your own family and friends are sitting down to dinner!
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Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Training Days

SOWMA will once again host a series of education days for onsite wastewater stakeholders throughout the province in early April. Last year, SOWMA hosted six training days and participated in a seventh training day hosted by Regina Qu'appelle Health Region. Plans are in place to repeat this series, with a focus on system design and installation, troubleshooting, maintenance and repair.

Members who have specific topics they would like information on should contact the SOWMA office. Your feedback and ideas are welcome. Call us at 306-988-2102 or email lesley@wcowma.com

Stay tuned for upcoming dates and locations!