

## Ode to the Septic System

A magical thing happens right under my lawn  
I flush the toilet, it goes there, then gone!  
That wonderful septic takes all that we do  
Every drop is digested, even numbers one & two

Sounds like my job, perhaps you might say  
Then you understand TLC can brighten the day  
Attention and maintenance is not merely a perk  
So let's take a look at how that septic system works

Because of the baffles, the tank keeps the poo  
Which needs to be pumped every 3rd year or two  
The liquids pass on to the drainfield with ease  
Its pipes have holes, just like Swiss cheese

Speaking of doo, here's what you should  
Using less water is wonderfully good  
Don't do the laundry many loads in a row  
Overloading could cause the system to blow

The 'don't' list is longer and cannot be rushed  
A whole lot of things just shouldn't be flushed  
Kleenex, solvents, paints, and antifreeze  
Foods like fat, oil, coffee grounds, and veggies  
Poison, cigarettes, and anti-bacterials too  
Old meds and even feminine products are taboo

Don't drive on the drainfield or it will get crushed  
Light a match near the tank and explode in a rush  
Inside the tank is icky, and no place to play  
If you smell yuck in your home call for help right away

When will I know there's a problem you think?  
How about when your basement is flooded with stink  
If your drains won't dry even after you plunge  
The yard becomes soggy like a big poopy sponge

So for the sake of our lakes, streams, and your piggy bank  
Please have someone regularly pump your septic tank

Brought to you by the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO). We are considering establishing a low interest loan program to help homeowners with septic system upgrade or replacement, particularly in shoreland areas. If interested, please contact Jamie Schurbon at 763-434-2030 ext. 12 or [jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org](mailto:jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org).

For more information about the SRWMO, please visit  
[www.AnokaNaturalResources.com\srwmo](http://www.AnokaNaturalResources.com\srwmo)