



Protect It and Inspect It—Have your system inspected every three years and have your tank pumped every three to five years.

- **Think at the Sink:** Avoid pouring fats, grease and solids down the drain.
- **Don't Overload the Commode:** Only put things in the drain or toilet that belong there.
- **Don't Strain Your Drain:** Be water efficient and spread out water use.
- **Shield Your Field:** Remind guests not to park or drive on a system's drainfield, where the weight could cause damage.
- **Test Your Well:** If you're on a well, test the water annually.

EPA's SepticSmart initiative can help promote septic system education in your area.

Across the country, local environmental groups, health departments, and governments face the challenges posed by improperly maintained and failing septic systems. EPA seeks to assist these local agencies in promoting homeowner education and awareness. Explore the information at: <http://water.epa.gov/septicSMART> to download printable homeowner-targeted materials, learn how organizations across the country have launched successful homeowner education programs, and more. You can download high-resolution PDF files for easy printing and distribution to homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems in your area. Materials available for download include web graphics, door hangers, postcards, brochures, flyers, and so much more!