



To assure that an on-lot system does not become hydraulically overloaded, which can cause a malfunction, the system user should practice basic water conservation. The wastewater flow from the residence should be kept as low as possible. Each and every gallon of water which goes down household drains must pass through the treatment tank and be filtered through by the on-lot system. Discharging excessive wastewater to the system is a common cause of on-lot system failure. You can reduce the hydraulic load on your on-lot system by following the practices described below.

1. **Check all faucets, pipes and toilets periodically for leaks.** A faucet drip or invisible leak in the toilet can add up to 15 gallons of water a day, or 105 gallons a week which equals over 5,000 gallons of wasted water a year.
2. **Utilize water saving shower heads.** Showers usually utilize less water than a bath and save energy. Low flow shower heads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less and are relatively inexpensive. Older showerheads use 5 to 7 gallons per minute.
3. **Reduce the volume of water discharged by toilet flushing.** Buy a low flow toilet which uses 1.6 gallons of water per flush compared to older toilets which use 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush. An option if you do have an older toilet is to place a heavy object such as a brick in a plastic bag in the tank. This displaces liquid and results in an lesser volume of water.
4. **Arrange for full load washings of your dishwasher.** It uses the same amount of water whether it is full or just partially full of dishes. Many dishwashers have a water saving cycle to save even more water.
5. **Use the garbage disposal with discretion.** Wastes from these units are not digested easily by bacteria in the septic tank. Such wastes may cause a more rapid buildup of solid matter requiring more frequent pumping.
6. **Keep a container of drinking water in your refrigerator.** Don't let the faucet run until the water reaches a cooler temperature. Running faucets waste up to 7 gallons of water per minute.
7. **Select the proper water level for laundry.** Unlike your dishwasher, you can control the amount of water used by your clothes washers. Select the proper water level for each load of laundry. Try to limit the number of wash loads run each day. Running two or three loads of wash in a single day, particularly during wet periods of the year, may cause severe overloading of the system.

***Remember by practicing water conservation methods, the life of the on-lot sewage disposal system can be extended.***