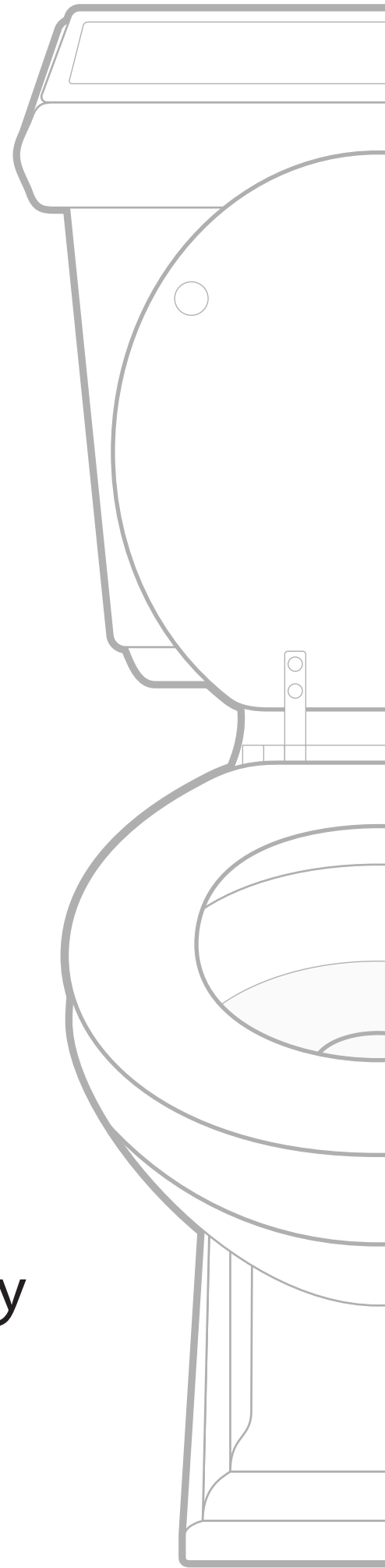


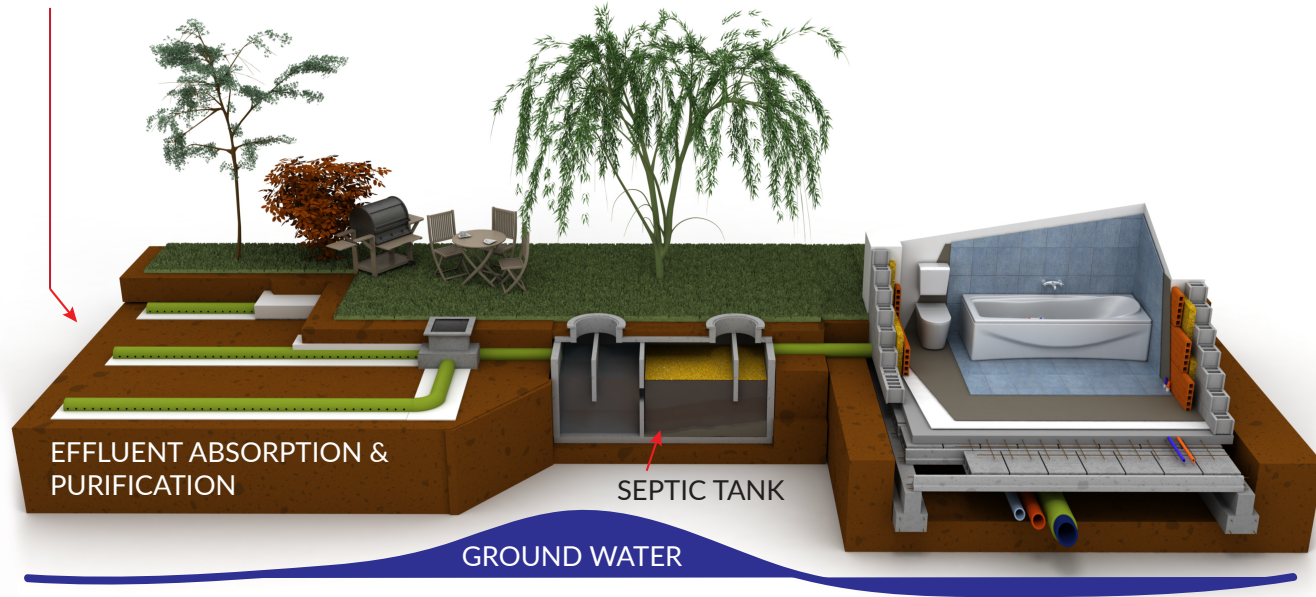


POTTY TALK

A Pines on the 
Severn Reference
Guide for the Septic Savvy



LEACHFIELD / DRAINFIELD



Sure, it stinks—but somebody’s got to talk about it.

A septic system has two major components: a septic tank and a drain field. Wastewater flows from the house to the septic tank, which retains water long enough for heavy solids—you know the ones—to settle to the bottom.

Untreated wastewater is directed to the drain field where the water slowly infiltrates to the soil. Even though wastewater is much cleaner at this point—it still contains pollutants. Even septic systems in good condition release 30 lbs of nitrogen per year into our waterways.

Even worse, those that are *not* well maintained can leak untreated sewage causing nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacterial pollution in our waterways—the ones in which you, your children, and our aquatic friends swim.

KNOW THE FACTS

100% of the homes in PINES ON THE SEVERN have septic systems

The typical LIFE expectancy of a septic tank is **25-30 yrs**

An unusable septic system, or one in disrepair, will LOWER your property **value** and potentially pose a costly legal liability

The Bay Restoration Septic Fund OFFERS **grants** for the installation of BAT nitrogen-reducing systems.

Learn more: aahealth.org/bay-restoration-septic-fund



HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP:



REMEMBER TO PUMP



- Pump your septic tank every two years.

WHY: If the tank gets too full, sludge particles could flow out of the tank or clog drain lines that seep into the soil, thus leaching into surface water and ultimately Chase Creek.

DON'T ADD OR DUMP

- Do NOT add starter enzymes or yeast to your system.

WHY: Additives have not been scientifically proven to improve the performance of your system.

Tip: Save your money for your regularly scheduled pump out!



- Do NOT pour fats, oils, antibacterial or antiseptic products, medications, chlorine bleach, solvents, chemicals, pesticides, paint thinner, and auto products down the drain.

WHY: These substances can kill the good bacteria that make the system function and could leach into waterways.

Tip: Unused medications can be returned to the local police station or Arnold Professional Pharmacy. Learn more about proper disposal of hazardous products here: epa.gov/hw/learn-basics-hazardous-waste

KEEP WATER-USE LOW



- Don't overload systems with excessive household water-use.

WHY: Overuse could cause system failure, not allowing adequate drainage time, which could lead to groundwater contamination.

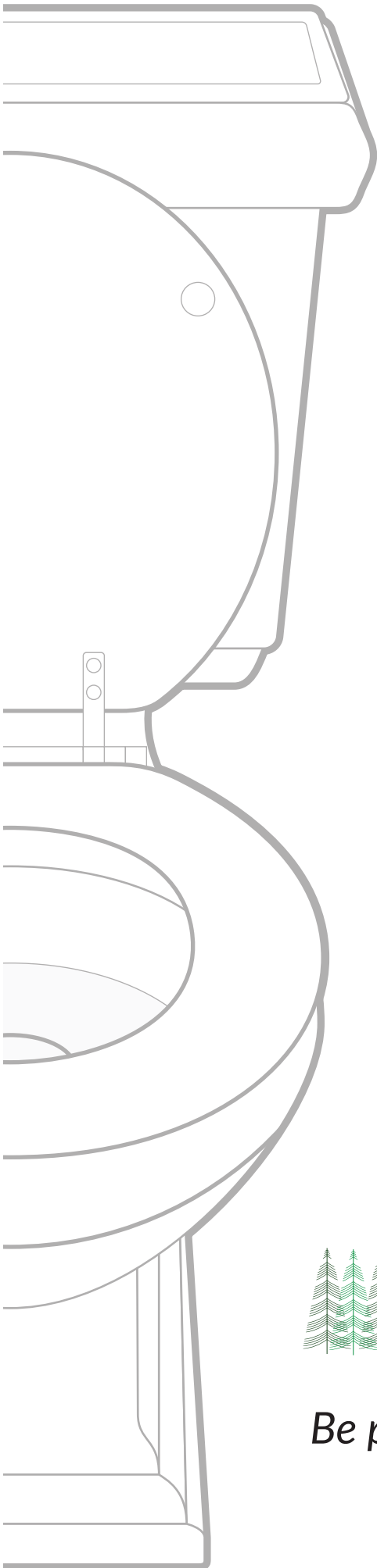
Tip: Don't run your dishwasher and washing machine at the same time and try keep laundry to one load at a time.

BE MINDFUL OF HOW TREES GROW



- Keep tree roots out of your septic field and avoid compacting soil.

WHY: Roots can cause pipes to break and leach untreated sewage, while compacted soil can impede proper absorption.



Next time you're in the bathroom, have some fun! Find the items below that should never be flushed.

A C C O B U H V W S U A P K C
K N I I O L I X L P U I A E J
N L T D T L E A P T F Z I K S
S X S I A P C A O E A B N B E
B G K M B I E P C Q T C T J D
H H F H M A R S B H S Q T R I
S U W E A O C U I M I I H E C
U J H M D Y Y T Q T U Z I Z I
F C X U I H O Q E D N B N C T
P L C M R P U X P R M A N H S
E T P S N O I T A C I D E M E
S S O L V E N T S G V A R L P
O J T B Q J I X T Q E P L B N
B M D R X H T O A R P K S J R
C X Z J T I B K A Q E K D Y J

Q: If you are American in the living room, what are you in the bathroom?



More to come on
pinesonthesevern.org

Be part of the ripple effect—tell a neighbor!