

## Septic System Maintenance

Proper use of septic systems in Bahia Bay is important for personal wellbeing and for that of the neighborhood. At this time, it appears that all septic systems are functioning properly, but as time passes and the age of the systems increase, that could change. Perhaps the following information from Aransas County Environmental Health will help keep systems functioning properly long into the future:

The biggest problem with On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) is improper use. OSSF's are only designed to handle domestic sewage. The following substances should **NOT** be disposed of in a home plumbing system: cigarettes, facial tissues, paper towels, diapers, kitty litter, grease, chemicals, and hygiene products.

Disposal of these items add to the solid load, fills the tank rapidly and decreases its efficiency. In addition, strong chemicals not only kill the bacteria necessary for the operation of the system, but they also create the risk of leaching into the underground water sources resulting in the contamination of the groundwater and wells. Remember your septic system is built to handle human waste, not chemicals.

Keep the lawn above your drain area or spray field properly seeded and mowed and free of construction. Do not use it as a parking or storage area.

You should call your maintenance provider for assistance if the system starts to smell. Aerobic units require electricity to operate properly; do not intentionally turn off the system's power source.

Should you need more information or advice about your septic system, call Aransas County Environment Health at (361) 790-0121.