

# Best practices for using a septic system

## Inside the residence

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### 1. Avoid disposing of the following in toilets, sinks, or drains:

- ✓ Large amounts of household cleaning products.
  - Bleach or other disinfectants, toilet cleaner tablets, drain cleaners.
- ✓ Hazardous products.
  - Paints, fuels, oils, solvents, antifreeze, etc.
  - Spa or swimming pool maintenance products.
- ✓ Any solid waste.
  - Baby wipes, hair, personal hygiene products.
- ✓ Cooking oil and grease, food.

### 2. Tell your guests about these best practices!

### 3. Avoid using additives sold for septic systems!

### 4. Monitor your water consumption!

- ✓ Repair any leaks in faucets or toilets as soon as possible.
- ✓ Install water-saving devices on taps and showers.
- ✓ Spread out the use of water-consuming appliances as much as possible throughout the week.
- ✓ Opt for water-saving models when the time comes to replace your toilet, washing machine, or dishwasher.

### 5. Softeners and other drinking water treatment devices:

- ✓ Avoid directing water coming from backwash, water softeners, or other drinking water treatment devices to the septic system.
- ✓ If you don't have the option to do so, consider the potential impacts on the septic system.
- ✓ For more information, consult the technical sheet titled *Criteria that mitigate the impact of backwash from a drinking water treatment device* on our website.



# Outside the residence

1. Avoid connecting or directing gutters and drains to the septic system.

2. Above the septic system:

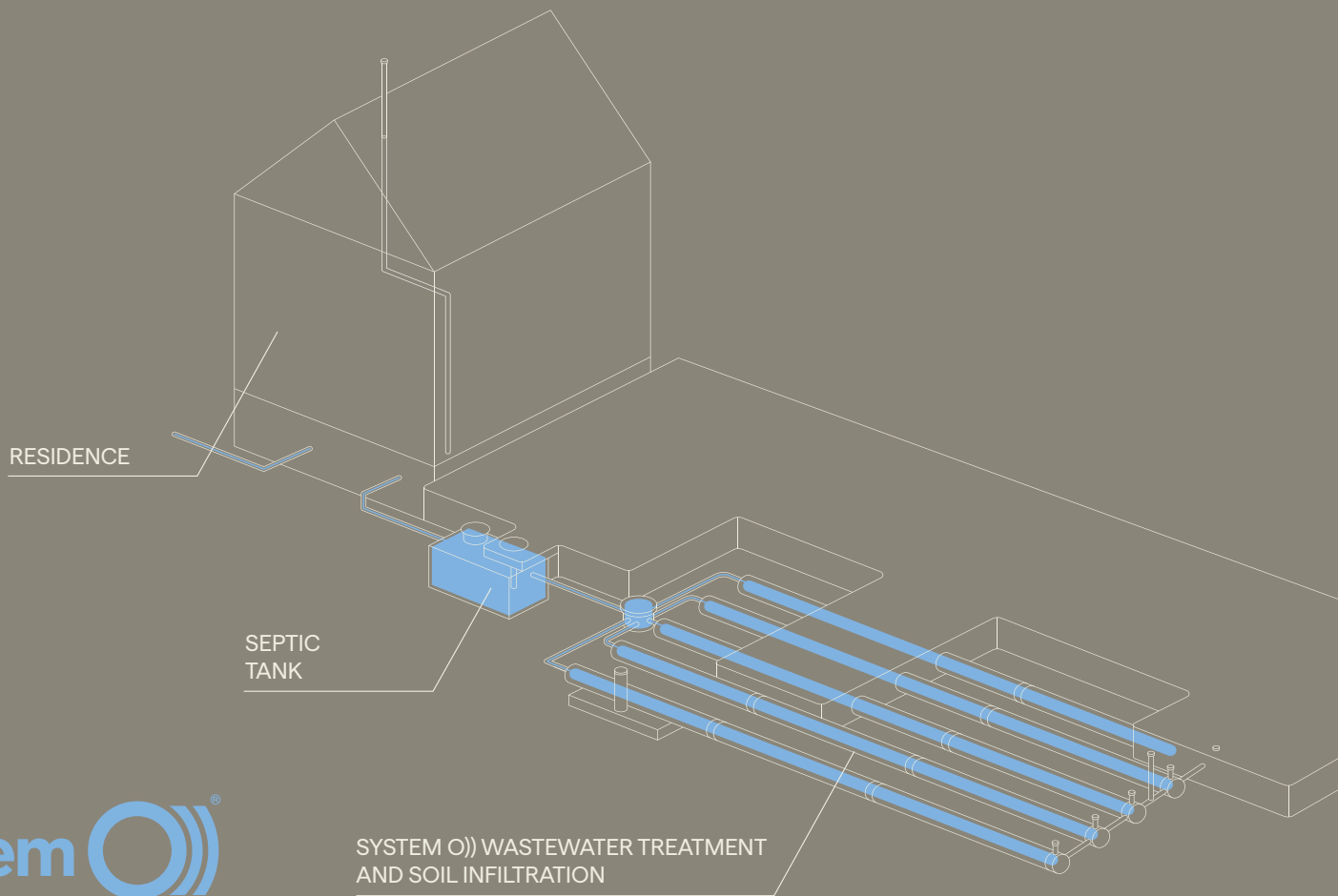
- ✓ Keep the area free of any permanent structures.
- ✓ Do not drive motorized vehicles over it.
- ✓ Add a ground cover (grass, clover, etc.) and maintain it regularly.
- ✓ Plant any trees or shrubs more than 3 metres away from the edges of the septic system.
- ✓ Install raised vegetable beds if you want!

3. Make sure that:

- ✓ The septic tank is regularly pumped out.
- ✓ The effluent filter is rinsed every 6 months (if your septic tank has one).
- ✓ The system caps are in good condition.

4. Can you spot signs of a malfunction?

- ✓ Water resurgence or spongy soil near the septic system.
- ✓ Slow and difficult drainage of water from the residence.



**System** 

SYSTEM O)) WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SOIL INFILTRATION

## For more information

✓ Check out DBO Expert's blog:

- A vegetable garden on my septic system? It's possible!
- DBO))Clic - Effluent-filters
- DBO))Clic - Septic System Additives

✓ Contact your municipality

✓ Visit the page Wastewater from Isolated Dwellings on the website of the ministère de l'Environnement:

- Best practices guide (French only)
- Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings (RETEURI - Q-2, r. 22)
- Frequently asked questions (French only)



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