

OUT OF SIGHT. NOT OUT OF MIND.



Image by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ONLY

Water & Toilet Paper
to the drain!

Use rocks, bushes or
fences as a visual
drainfield boundary.

Wastewater
From House

Septic
Tank

Return
Line

Drip
Tubing

Access
Risers

Treatment
System

Pump
Tank

Supply
Line

Wastewater
Treatment in Soil

Wastewater Flow

SUBSURFACE DRIP SYSTEM



**INSPECT EVERY
6 MONTHS!**

“An Invisible” underground subsurface drip system works hard to treat your wastewater.

Wastewater generated from your house is collected in a septic tank and travels to the treatment system, pump tank, and then drip line pipes. Wastewater drips out of the pipes through emitters—small holes in the pipes—down to underground soil. While the water moves through underground soil, microbes consume pollution out of the water before it flows into the environment. Untreated wastewater is a potential hazard to local water systems and our health.

Pay Attention to Common Problems

Because drip tubes are installed in a shallow subsurface—6 to 10 inches below the ground—most mechanical problems involve damaged pipes. The subsurface drip pipes are thin (1/2 inch diameter) and can be broken with heavy loading and pressure from cars driving over the drainfield or animals damaging the drip pipes. A broken drip system can be a costly fix, so it is important to know where your drip lines are and have a regular inspection to prevent such mechanical failures.

Public Health
Seattle & King County



**Protect Your
Drainfield**

SEE TIPS ON
OTHER SIDE



HEAVY WEIGHT

DIGGING

Watch Heavy Loads in Your Yard!

- Find the location of your on-site sewage system (OSS) at www.kingcounty.gov/ossrecords to avoid driving, digging, or parking on it.
- Mark the edges or outlines of the drainfield with fences, rocks, planters, or other recognizable signs.
- Let your landscaper and other service providers know of the location of your drainfield to avoid heavy landscape equipment on it.
- Keep irrigation lines for plants at least 10 feet away from all septic system components and make sure water does not soak the drainfield.

Watch what you flush!

- Flush only human waste and toilet paper down the toilet.
- Don't use a garbage disposal.
- Keep fat/oil/grease, food scraps, coffee grounds, hair from going down the drain.
- Use boiling water or a drain snake instead of a strong drain cleaner.

Watch your system regularly!

- Have your subsurface drip system inspected every 6 months. If your system is new, contact your system installer and ask about inspections.
- Find a certified on-site system maintainer and more information about inspections at www.kingcounty.gov/oss/maintainer

6"

YOUR DRIP SYSTEM