

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

How To Make Sure Everything Is Right For Barbecue Season

(NAPSA)—As the weather heats up, millions of families will be firing up the barbecue. In preparation for this year's backyard get-togethers, however, homeowners should remember to properly maintain their septic systems to avoid embarrassing and costly backups that could spoil the good times.

"If you have a septic system, you should know that most of the water that goes down any drain inside the house, from toilets to washing machines, is drained into the septic tank," explains biologist Ed Cooney. "Waste from the home is collected in this water-tight tank where bacteria decompose the organic matter and help the water clear so it can be dispersed through the drain field in the backyard."

The efficiency of a septic system depends, in great part, on the level of activity of the bacteria present in it. Regular use of a 100 percent natural, scientifically formulated additive such as Rid-X can boost the septic tank with billions of those bacteria and enzymes scientifically proven to be the most efficient at decomposing waste.

Backyard barbecues usually mean more guests, which translates into increased toilet flushing and more water usage. The more water is flushed into your septic system, the more bacteria are flushed out of it, leaving the tank depleted. At times like these, it is even more critical to treat your septic system with an additive scientifically formulated to boost bacterial activity.



Fire up the barbecue for some sizzling delights that'll stick to your ribs.

In addition, entertaining guests often requires additional cleaning. That means more laundry, more mopping, more dish washing and, ultimately, more chemicals flushed to your septic tank. Bleach and other household cleaning products can be deadly to the bacteria population that is necessary to keep the septic tank working smoothly.

If you've never experienced a septic system backup, consider yourself lucky: it can be an extremely embarrassing experience. If you were to ask anyone who's been through the costly, smelly and messy ordeal, most would advise

you to avoid it at any cost. The smell of a severe overflow not only permeates the home, but could also spread to neighboring homes.

To avoid having Wiffle ball games or volleyball matches swamped out, or your basement flooded by a failing septic system, consider the following tips:

- Have your septic system checked regularly, at least every three to five years, and pumped when necessary by a licensed professional.
- Use septic-friendly products. Avoid pouring straight bleach, leftover paints and concentrated cleaners down the drain when cleaning up.
- Throw garbage in bags versus the garbage disposal to help minimize solid waste buildup in the septic tank.
- Try to reduce the use of water by using a water-saving function on dishwashers and washing machines. Also, make sure your toilet tank has a water-efficient design.

• Use a septic system treatment like Rid-X once a month, along with regular pumping, to keep the tank in prime shape and ready to deal with occasional increases in water usage.

By recognizing the demands put on a septic system, homeowners can avoid overburdening it and save themselves unnecessary grief. To make sure everything is right in your home this barbecue season, mow your lawn, water your flowers, clean your grill...and don't forget to treat your septic system.