

# MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

## CHOCTAW HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

**Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, and environment:**

#### Do:

- Have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.
- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds and food.
- Put grease in a container to harden.
- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more water efficient by fixing plumbing leaks.

#### Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.
- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.
- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs close to your drainfield. Roots can grow into your system and clog it.
- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.