



# Best practices for using a septic system



## Inside the dwelling

### 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 trash

- Baby wipes, hair, personal hygiene products such as tampons

Cooking oil, grease, and food scraps

### 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 devices that consume a lot of water** as much as possible within the week
- **Buy water-saving models** when time to replace toilets, washers, or dishwashers

### Softeners and other drinking water treatment devices:

- Prevent backwash from softeners or other drinking water treatment devices from being directed toward the septic system
- If you have no other option, be aware of the potential impacts on the septic system
- For more information, a data sheet entitled *Criteria that mitigate the impact of backwash from a drinking water treatment device* is provided on our website

**Tell your guests about these best practices!**

**Avoid buying additives sold for septic systems**



# Outside the dwelling

**Collect rainwater instead  
of connecting gutters to  
the septic system**

## 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!

## 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

## Can you spot signs of a malfunction?

- Water resurgence or spongy soil near the septic system
- Water from the dwelling is slow or difficult to evacuate

## For more information

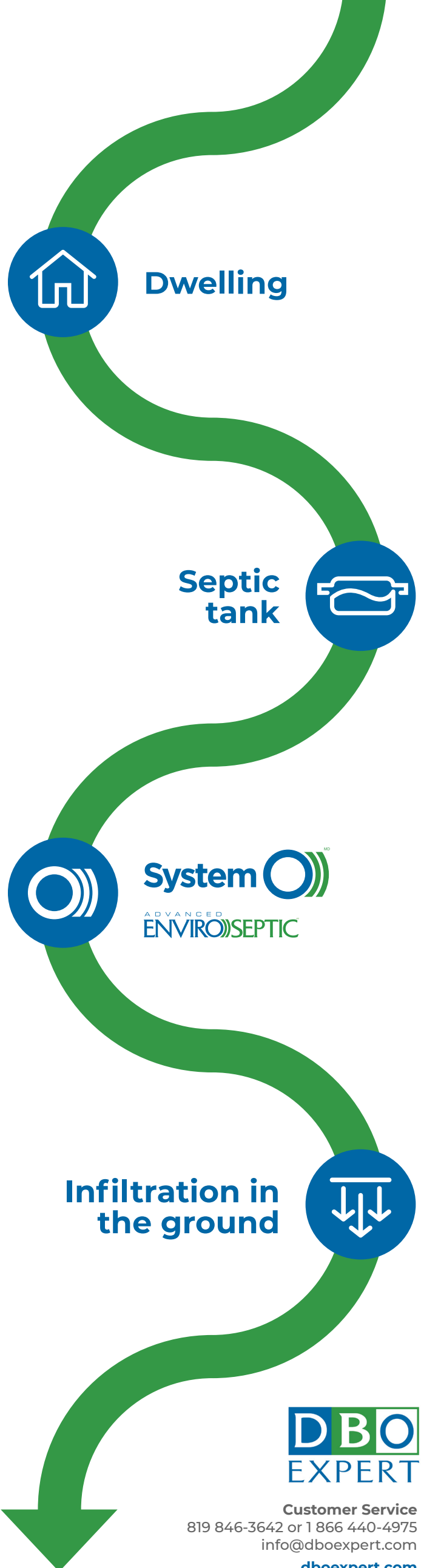
### Check out DBO Expert's blog:

- A vegetable garden on my septic installation? Go for it!
- DBO))Clic – Effluent-filters
- DBO))Clic – Additives for septic installations

### 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)

**Contact your municipality**



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