1. Practice water conservation
   - Use low use fittings on showers and toilet tanks
   - Wash clothes on the large load cycle, and not all loads on the same day
   - Repair leaking fixtures, especially the toilet tank
   - Do not run water needlessly, e.g., when brushing teeth turn water off

2. Avoid unnecessary water entering your septic tank and drainfield
   - Garbage disposals add an extra load of solids to your septic tank
   - Do not pump ground water from your sump into your septic tank
   - Divert storm runoff and snow melt water-slope away
   - Down spout water should be directed away from the septic system
   - Do not place a sprinkler head over a drainfield
   - Water softener discharge can be diverted to a separate seepage area
   - Swimming pool or hot tub water should not go into the septic system
   - All wastewater must go into the sewer line and then into the septic tank

3. Be careful what kinds of products you flush down the drain
   - Disposable diapers, flushable/disposable wipes, paper products, plastic products and food products add to solids in the septic tank and may cause clogging of a sewer line
   - Use household cleaning products in moderation
   - Never dump toxic materials down the drain including gas, oil, paint, and pesticides as they may kill bacteria or cause ground water contamination
   - Additives are typically not necessary

4. Soil cover and landscaping
   - Add a layer of top soil over sandy soils over the drainfield and plant grass
   - Do not cover the drainfield with clay soils as this restricts oxygen
   - Mound the soil slightly over the drainfield to divert rain water or runoff
   - Trees or plants with deep roots should not be planted over or next to the septic tank or drainfield

5. Protecting the septic system area
   - Protect from freezing if vehicles, snowmobiles, sidewalks, or even foot paths cross them during freezing weather
   - Do no place parking areas, driveways, swimming pools, outbuildings, garages, or other structures over the septic tank or drainfield

6. Signs of problems
   - Slow drains or back-up in the wastewater drains
   - Lush green grass in the year or weed growth in the lake
   - Ponding of liquids, soggy area, or foul-smelling seepage in the yard
   - Call a septic tank pumper, a septic system installer, or the health department
   - Sewage contains microorganisms that are infectious and may adversely affect human health