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**Department of Public Works  
BUREAU OF UTILITIES**

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*Art Shapiro, Bureau Chief*

**ON-SITE WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT SYSTEM USER'S GUIDE**

**MAPLE RIDGE WASTEWATER COLLECTION  
TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM**

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**USER MANUAL  
COUNTY-OWNED SHARED SEPTIC SYSTEM**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides information for the user of the new wastewater treatment and disposal system for the Maple Ridge subdivision. Included are descriptions and specific instructions for the proper use and maintenance of the County-owned individual septic systems for homeowners of Maple Ridge. The Howard County Department of Public Works encourages citizen participation and questions through the Bureau of Utilities, telephone number: **410-313-4900**.

The wastewater management plan combines a gravity collection system with conventional on-site treatment. The system contains the following:

- Common eight-inch gravity sewer collection main.
- Septic tanks
- Distribution to the shared leachfield for treatment and ultimate disposal by soil absorption.

The unique wastewater treatment and disposal system is comprised of a gravity sewer main wherein septic waste is conveyed to the common septic tanks on Preservation Parcel B where it is ultimately treated and disposed of in a subsurface soil absorption system.

There is a septic tank/pumping chamber located on each lot. This is NOT part of the publically owned and maintained shared septic system. Maintenance of this tank and pumping equipment is the responsibility of each homeowner. County maintenance starts at the 4" cleanout located at the front of each lot, approximately 5 feet from the existing paving of Maple Ridge Drive.

The following System User's Guide provides valuable information to you. The Maple Ridge Shared Septic system will be maintained by the Department of Public Works, but we need your help.

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## II. A GUIDE FOR THE SEPTIC SYSTEM USER

Review this User's Manual carefully, and please follow this list of Do's and Don'ts

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You do NOT need to add any agents or treatment chemicals to the septic tank to assist its natural bacteriological process. Adding chemicals may only interfere with the natural function of your septic system.

DO	DON'T
<p>Familiarize yourself with the location of the sanitary sewer house connection standpipe cleanout(s).</p> <p>Call <b>410-313-4900</b> if you are experiencing sewer backup or observe any surface discharge. County personnel will inspect and service the site, making emergency calls when needed. However, plumbing and the septic tank/pumping chamber from the house to the cleanout standpipe located at the public/private property easement is the <b>responsibility of the homeowner to maintain and repair.</b></p> <p>Leave the area over and around standpipe cleanout visible and free of obstructions.</p> <p>Hook up "domestic wastewater" <b>only</b> to the sewage collection system discharging from your home. If it doesn't come from washing or using the toilet, don't put it into the Shared Septic system.</p> <p>Place kitchen waste in the garbage.</p> <p>Use a strainer in the kitchen sink.</p> <p>Place cooking oils and grease into a container to cool off. Then dispose of the waste into the garbage.</p>	<p>DON'T subject the sewer cleanout standpipe to vehicular traffic, or place any permanent construction over these items.</p> <p>DON'T build or plant near or around, sewer cleanout standpipe.</p> <p>DON'T connect, tie in, or divert any gutter downspout, surface runoff water, storm water, basement sump pumps, or <b>well water treatment/softener system backwash</b> to the shared septic system.</p> <p>DON'T use garbage disposals in your home.</p> <p>DON'T use automatic dishwashers that have built in disposals or add enzymes.</p> <p>DON'T use automatic toilet bowl cleaners, they will kill bacteria in the treatment process.</p> <p>DON'T wash out paint brushes or drywall compound into the shared septic system.</p> <p>DON'T flush flammable, toxic, or hazardous waste (such as degreasers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, strong disinfectants, prescription medications, fuels, paints, stains, varnishes, paint thinners, or solvents) into the shared septic system.</p>

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### III. A GUIDE FOR THE SEPTIC SYSTEM USER

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<p>Always practice water conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be sure all water using devices in the home operate properly</li><li>• Install water saving devices (low flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and toilet tank dams).</li><li>• Repair leaking toilets and faucets</li><li>• Run washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load</li><li>• Spread out the laundry: wash the clothes over a period of several days</li></ul> <p>Properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals.</p> <p>Carefully measure soaps, detergents, and disinfectants.</p> <p>Direct water treatment/softener back wash water away from the shared septic system and drinking water wells.</p>	<p>DON'T flush paper towels, sanitary napkins and pads, or cloth goods into the shared septic system.</p> <p>DON'T put abrasive material (such as aquarium gravel, kitty litter, glass, egg shells, sand, stone, or dirt) into the shared septic system.</p>

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#### **IV. SHARED LEACHFIELD**

The sewage treatment and disposal area, located at the end of Argent Path, is the final discharge point for the wastewater. All discharge occurs underground, the area above is designated as a preservation parcel. While this natural area is to be enjoyed for its variety of plants and wildlife, the active portion of the disposal area is a “no trespassing” area due to the variety of exposed pipes above ground.

#### **CONCLUSION**

If you would like more information on your sewer connection, the Brantwood Shared Septic system, or about any of our clean water programs, the Howard County Department of Public Works will be happy to answer questions. *Write* the Bureau of Utilities, Howard County Department of Public Works, 8270 Old Montgomery Road, Columbia, MD 21045, *or* call 410-313-4900.