



FIRE ISLAND GREEN™

Be a part of the **Fire Island Association's** (FIA) commitment to environmental stewardship!

Fire Island's beauty hides a fragile ecosystem threatened by pollution. While long-term solutions are underway, every action counts now — even yours!

SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE

Your septic system contains a collection of beneficial living organisms that digest and treat household waste.

Pouring harmful substances like bleach and oils down drains can decimate septic systems, polluting groundwater. Do not flush bleach, oils, chemicals, paper towels, wipes, dental floss, cat litter, or drugs. (prescription drugs should be brought back to the pharmacy for disposal.) Use single-ply toilet paper. Avoid super thick options.

ECO-FRIENDLY LAUNDRY

Choose plant-based, EPA-certified detergents to minimize groundwater pollution. Look for products free from optical brighteners, phosphates, chlorine bleach, artificial fragrances, 1,4-Dioxane, and antibacterial chemicals. Liquid detergents are preferable to powders as they dissolve more effectively, leaving less residue in the water.



OUTDOOR SHOWER TIPS

We agree; this is one of the joys of summer but, when showering outdoors, opt for shampoos and soaps made from 100% natural ingredients without dyes, perfumes, or enhancers.

Limit the use of hair products and avoid dyeing hair or performing other chemical treatments while on Fire Island. Use outdoor showers primarily for rinsing off salt and sand, reducing the introduction of pollutants to the groundwater.

DECK & FURNITURE CLEANING

Avoid harsh chemicals (bleach) when cleaning decks and outdoor furniture. Instead, choose biodegradable cleaning solutions available at most hardware stores. Allow time for the ground to absorb water naturally by avoiding cleaning before or after rain events. Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall, to prevent runoff into the groundwater and the bay.

By adopting these practices, we can each play a role in preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of Fire Island for generations to come

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

A more complete list of best practices and products is available at fireislandgreen.org
Please support the Fire Island Association at fireislandassociation.org

Next bulletin of **FIRE ISLAND GREEN™**

- Microplastics, forever chemicals, and your washing machine.
- Bring back the clothesline!

