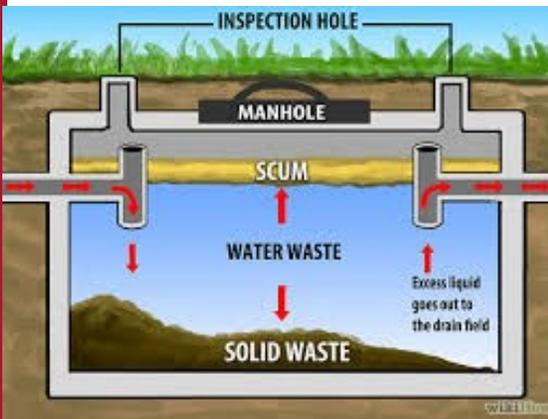


HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Did you know that as a homeowner you're responsible for maintaining your septic system?

Did you know that maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home?

Did you know that you should regularly inspect your system and pump out your septic tank?



Why should I maintain my septic system?

Saving money

A key reason to maintain your septic system is to save money. Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace, and poor maintenance is often the culprit. Having your septic system inspected every 3 years is a bargain when you consider the cost of replacing the entire system. Your system will need pumping every 3 to 5 years, depending on how many people live in the house and the size of the tank. An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value and could pose a legal liability.

Protecting health and the environment

Other good reasons for safe treatment of sewage include preventing the spread of disease and protecting water resources. Typical pollutants in household wastewater include nitrogen, phosphorous, and disease-causing bacteria and viruses. If a septic system is working properly, it will remove most of these pollutants.

How do I maintain my septic system?

Inspect and pump frequently

You should have your septic system assessed at least every 3 years and have your tank pumped every 3 to 5 years. A Qualified Person or certified septic system installer can assess all parts of your septic system, and a certified pumping professional can assess the condition of your septic tank.

Use water efficiently

Average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is about 1000 litres per day. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 900 litres each day. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use can improve the operation of the septic system and reduce the risk of failure.

Watch your drains

What goes down the drain can have a major impact on how well your septic system works.

Care for your drainfield

Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from trees/shrubs might clog or damage the drainfield; Don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system; Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the drainfield.

SEPTIC SYSTEM DO'S

- * Pump your septic system every 3 to 5 years.
- * Spread water use out over time. The slower you run sewage through your septic tank, the better the tank performs.
- * Keep pumping records, system approval and design info with your deed.
- * Plant and maintain a healthy grass cover over the drainfield.
- * Divert roof drain and up slope rain water from the drain field.

SEPTIC SYSTEM DON'TS

- * Don't overload your septic with water.
- * Don't wash more than 2 loads of laundry per day.
- * Don't drive vehicles on the drain field.
- * Don't allow water from sump drains or roof drains to enter your septic system.
- * Don't divert laundry water or sink/wash water away from the septic system. This is referred to as "greywater" which is sewage and can cause harm to the environment and human health.
- * Don't dump fat or oils down the drain.

Four Major factors influence the frequency of pumping:

1. The number of people in your household
2. The amount of wastewater generated
3. The volume of solids in the wastewater
4. The size of your septic tank



NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT

136 Exhibition St., 2nd Floor
Kentville, NS
B4N 4E5
Phone: 1-902-679-6088
Fax: 1-902-679-6186

Not in My Septic System!



VILLAGE OF LAWRENCETOWN

PO Box 38
12 Prince St.
Lawrencetown, NS
B0S 1M0

Phone: 902-584-3082
Fax: 902-584-3878

E-mail: villagelawrencetown@ns.aliantzinc.ca

