

- Do not discharge water softener backwash to the septic tank. This and other water treatment equipment must backwash to a separate leaching system,
- Your septic tank is not a trash can. Do not put grease, cooking oil, disposable diapers, flushable wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, paper towels, plastics, cigarette butts, cat litter, latex paint, pesticides or other hazardous chemicals into your system.

- ⇒ Only flush pee, poo and paper.
- ⇒ Have your tank pumped and inspected every 2-5 years, depending on usage. Keep records of your pump outs. Pumping is the cheapest insurance to keep your system working long-term.
- ⇒ Learn the location of your tank and leaching fields.
- ⇒ Plant only grass over your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the leaching fields.
- ⇒ Do not drive or park over any part of your septic system un-

less it is specifically designed for such. This can compact the soil and crush your system.

In summary, understanding how your septic system works and following a few simple rules will ensure that your system is a safe and economical method for treating and disposing of your wastewater onsite.

If you have any questions or concerns about your septic system contact the Central Connecticut Health District for answers.



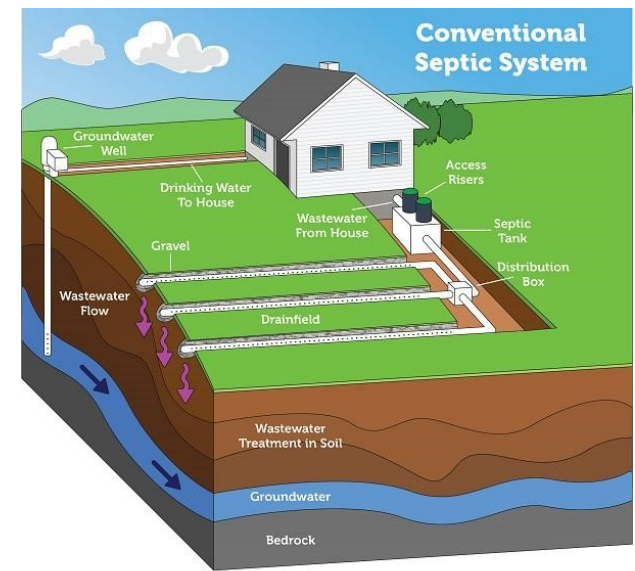
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You and your Septic System

So... now you own a septic system

This means you are now responsible for maintenance of your onsite wastewater disposal system

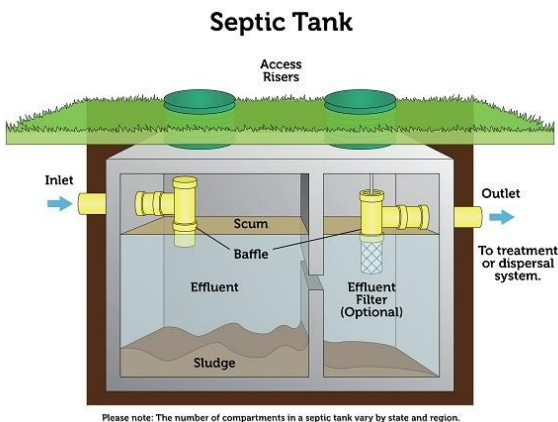


Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

How it works

A typical septic system contains two major components: a septic tank and the leaching fields. The septic tank is usually made of concrete or plastic, although very old tanks may be steel. Newer tanks will have two compartments (see figure). Older tanks may only have one compartment. All tanks must have working baffles on the inlet and outlet to insure proper flow patterns through the tank.

Septic tanks are typically 1,000 to 1,500 gallon capacity, depending on the number of bedrooms served. If a garbage disposal or large (>99 gallons) capacity tub is in use the tank volume should be sized up to accommodate that extra flow or solids.



The primary purpose of the tank is to separate out the solids (sludge), which sink to the bottom of the tank, and the scum such as oils and fats which float to the top of the tank. The solids and scum must be periodically pumped out of the tank to maintain proper functioning. This is a critical component of proper tank maintenance.

The clarified liquid then passes out of the tank and into the leaching fields. The leaching fields contain a series of underground perforated pipes, hollow leaching galleries or other proprietary systems to allow the wastewater to leach into the surrounding soil. Passage through the soil allows removal of bacteria and viruses in the wastewater, as well as nutrients. The purified water eventually reaches the water table and becomes a safe part of the water balance in the area.

What to Put In and What to Keep Out

- All wastewater from the house must be directed into the septic tank, with the exception of water conditioning equipment (ex. softener) backwash. This includes all sinks, baths, toilets, washing machine and

dishwasher wastewater. This wastewater can contain disease-causing microorganisms or environmental pollutants.

- Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains and other rainwater and surface water drains away from the tank and leaching fields. This excess water could flood your leaching system and cause it to malfunction.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the septic system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets. Use low-flow fixtures.
- Do not use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Use boiling water or drain snake instead to remove clogs.
- Do not use septic tank additives, commercial septic tank cleaners, yeast, sugar etc. These products are not necessary and some may be harmful to your system.
- Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation.