

ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Development Services - Building Division



Did you know that septic systems are the responsibility of you the homeowner? It is up to you to keep your system working properly to protect your environment, your health and your investment. When properly designed, constructed and maintained, a septic system should provide long-term, effective treatment of your household wastewater. If you take good care of your system you will save yourself the time, money and worries involved in replacing a failed system. Failed systems can be hazardous to your health, the environment and your pocketbook. It can degrade water supplies and reduce your property value. Below are some valuable tips to ensure the longevity of your system.

Ask To See The License!

Anyone in the business of pumping and cleaning septic tanks must be licensed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Anyone who installs, repairs or services septic tanks must be licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



- Know the location and details of your septic system
- Keep accurate records in a safe place for reference
- Have your tank inspected every 3 to 5 years by a licensed professional
- If the tank is equipped with an effluent filter, have it checked and cleaned annually

Properly maintained septic systems should provide long-term effective treatment of household wastewater.



- Enter the septic tank
- Dig without knowing the location
- Flush harmful and hazardous materials
- Impede the operation of the septic system (e.g. drive, park, fences, trees, landscaping).
- Allow excess water to drain onto the septic system (downspouts, sump pumps, water softener backwash)

Failed septic systems can be harmful to your health, hazardous to the environment, degrade water supplies, and reduce property value.

If you live in a rural area or a small community or if you have a cottage, chances are you have a septic system. Septic systems are onsite treatment units that eliminate the need for municipal sewers in rural areas. Anything that goes down the drain — every shower drip and every toilet flush — flows to the septic system. Septic systems are comprised of a tank, a network of pipes and billions of organisms that process your waste.

