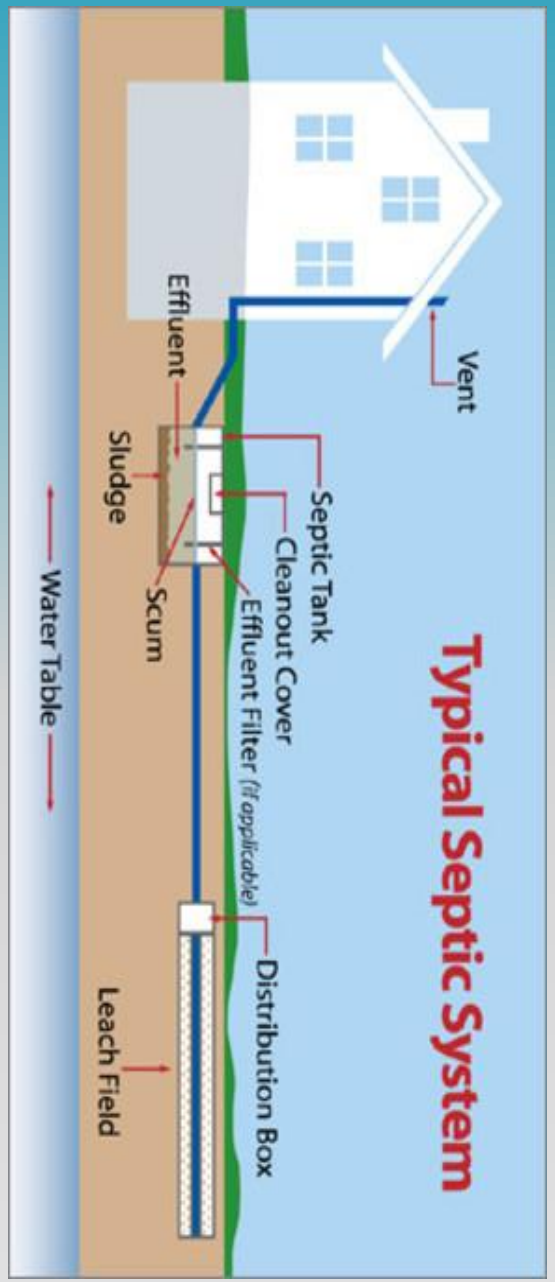
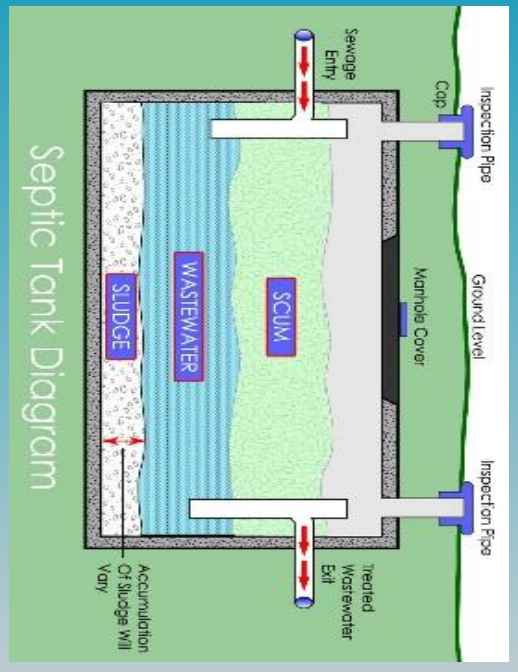
Examples.....





Maintaining Your Septic System

Wisconsin Admin. Code SPS-383 and Sauk County Chapter 25 requires that your septic system be serviced 2 years after it is installed and every 3 years after that (depending on type, it could require more frequent servicing).

The service event is required to take place within 90 days of receipt of notice from our department and shall be recorded with the Department within 30 calendar days from the date of service.

If you have a holding tank, you are required to pump/inspect your tank when the alarm goes off and report the servicing each time to the County. If we haven't received a report from you each year, we will send you a reminder to make sure you reporting each time your tank is pumped.

So now you own a Septic System...

Land Resources & Environment
505 Broadway
Baraboo WI 53913
608-355-3245 Phone
605-355-4440 Fax
www.co.sauk.wi.us

ESTD 1844
SAUK COUNTY
WISCONSIN

More than 25 million homes, encompassing almost 25% of the US population, dispose of wastewater through private onsite (unsewered) systems.

One of the major differences between owning a private onsite wastewater system (POWTS) and a sewered home is that a POWTS must be maintained by the homeowner.

Treatment and disposal of waste-water should be one of the pri-mary concerns of any home-owner.

How Does a POWTS work?

A typical septic system contains two major components: a septic tank and the absorption field. The septic tank is usually made of concrete, fiberglass, or plastic, is typically buried and should be watertight.

Septic tanks are typically designed to hold a mini-mum of 750-1000 gallons of sewage. The size of the tank may vary depending upon the number of bed-rooms in the home and state and local regulatory requirements.

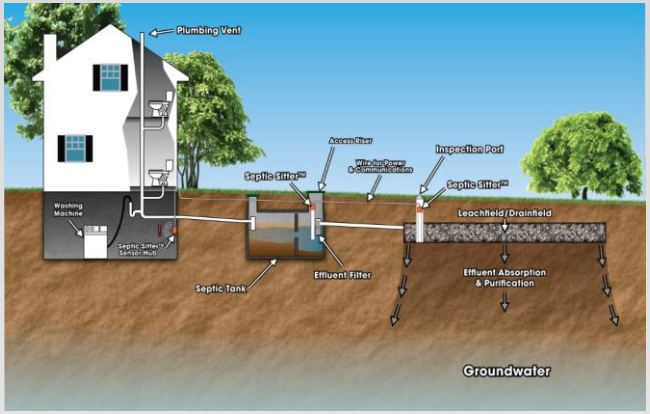
The primary purpose of a septic tank is to separate the solids, known as sludge, collect on the bottom of the tank, while the scum floats on the top of the liquid. The sludge and the scum remain in the tank and should be pumped out periodically.

Solids that are allowed to pass from the septic tank may clog the absorption field. Therefore, an additional safeguard in keeping solids out of the absorption field (drainfield/leachfield) is the use of effluent filters on the outlet of the septic tank.

Wastewater (effluent) coming out of the septic tank may contain many potentially disease-causing microorganisms and pollutants.

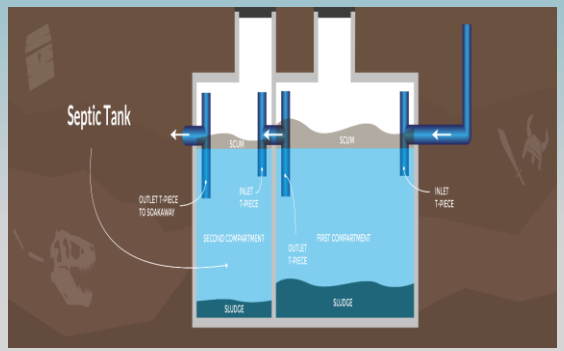
How to Prevent Problems

- Before installation is complete, have the septic tank tested for watertightness.
- Maintain your septic system by having it inspected and pumped regularly.
- Conserve water in your home by using low-flow fixtures and by implementing water conservation practices to avoid hydraulic overload of your septic system.
- Redirect surface water flow away from your soil absorption field.
- Do not drive vehicles or heavy equipment over the absorption field. This will compact the soil and reduce its ability to absorb water.
- Plant a greenbelt (grassy strip or small, short-rooted vegetation) between your soil absorption field and the shoreline of any nearby surface water body.
- Keep chemicals and other hazardous wastes out of the septic system.
- If you have a drinking water well, have it tested yearly for contaminants. If you suspect a contamination problem, have it tested more often.



What to Put In, What to Keep Out

- ☑ Direct all wastewater from your home into the septic tank. This includes all sink, bath, shower, toilet, washing machine and dish-washer wastewaters. Any of these waters can contain disease-causing microorganisms or environmental pollutants.
- ☑ Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the absorption field. Flooding of the absorption field with excessive water will keep the soil from natu-rally cleansing the wastewater, which can lead to groundwater and/or nearby surface water pollution.



- ☑ Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation. Many people prefer to clean their toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs with a mild detergent or baking soda.
- ☑ Conserve water to avoid overloading the sep-tic system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets. Use low-flow fixtures.
- ☑ Do not use septic tank additives, commercial septic tank cleansers, yeast sugar, etc. These products are not necessary and some may be harmful to your system.