Septic Basics

Q: What is a septic system?

A: A septic system is a storage container for the basic treatment of domestic wastewater.

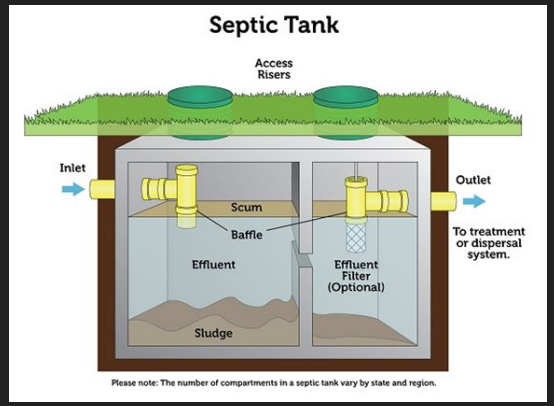

Image Courtesy of the EPA

Q: How does a septic system work?

A: Drainage pipes drain the wastewater to the septic tank, allowing solids to settle and releasing the water into the drainage field. The water then percolates into the soil, removing bacteria, viruses, and harmful nutrients.

How Should I Maintain My Septic System?

- Have your septic system regularly tested
- Household septic systems should be pumped every 3–5 years
    - The frequency at which you pump your septic system is dependent on a few factors, such as the size of the house, total wastewater generated, volume of the solids, size of the tank, and what is being flushed
- Regularly test your well water
- Protect your health and *save thousands of dollars!*

Types of Septic Systems

- On Site Soil Absorption System
  - Trench
  - Pressurized Sand Mounts

Photo Courtesy of the EPA

- Off Site Soil Absorption System
  - Sand/Gravel Filter Bed

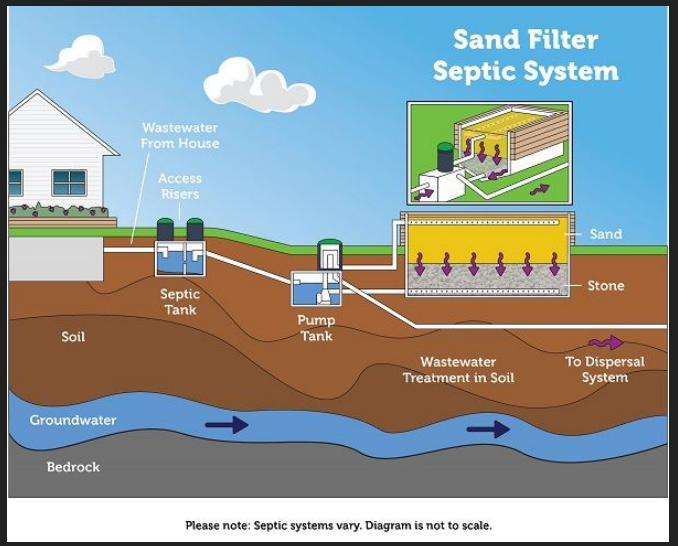

Photo Courtesy of the EPA