

Remember...

"Your septic system contains a living collection of organisms that digest and treat waste." -EPA, 2012

NEVER flush

- × Baby wipes
- × Condoms
- × Cigarette butts
- × Cat litter
- × Dental floss
- × Diapers
- × Feminine hygiene products
- × Paper towels
- × Pharmaceuticals or antibiotics

NEVER pour down sink

- × Antifreeze
- × Coffee grounds
- × Cooking grease or oil
- × Disinfectants
- × Fruit and vegetable peelings
- × Gasoline
- × Herbicides
- × Household chemicals
- × Pesticides
- × Paint or paint thinners
- × Solvents
- × Water softener brine

I am not a trash can!



Top four ways to protect your septic system

1. Regularly inspect your system and pump your tank as necessary.
2. Conserve water.
 - High-efficiency toilets
 - High-efficiency showerheads
 - Faucet aerators
 - Do small loads of laundry at a time
3. Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
4. Care for your drainfield.

Questions?

Contact your local county zoning department or Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services at the information below.



1400 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

Phone: (608) 266-2112

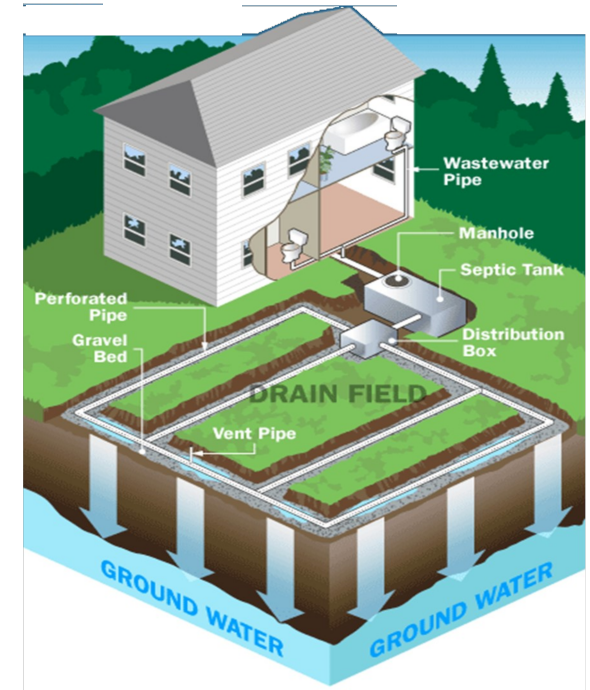
Phone: (877) 617-1565

Fax: (608) 283-7404

E-mail: DSPSSBPowtsTech@wi.gov



POWTS Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

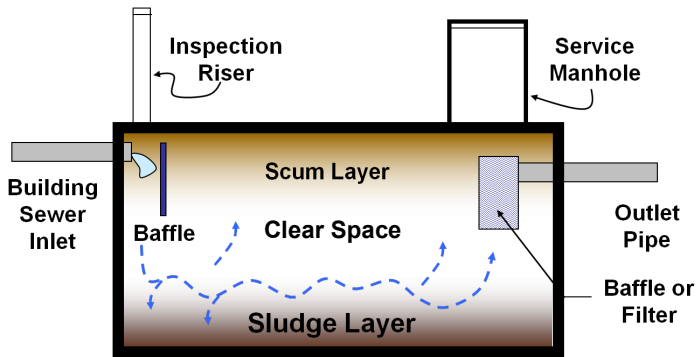


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Components of your Onsite Wastewater Treatment System

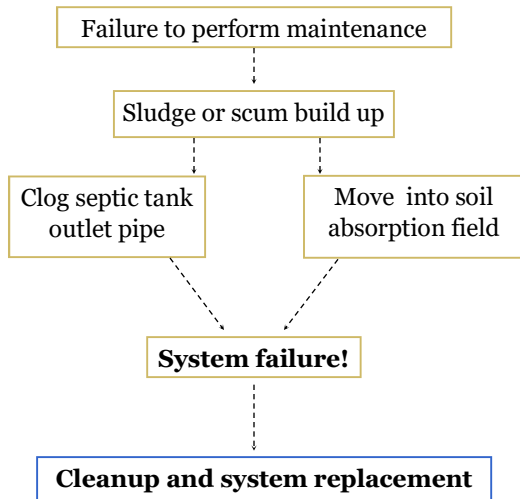
1. Septic Tank

All household wastewater exits your home through a pipe to the septic tank. The watertight tank holds wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out (sludge) while fats, oil and grease float to the surface (scum).



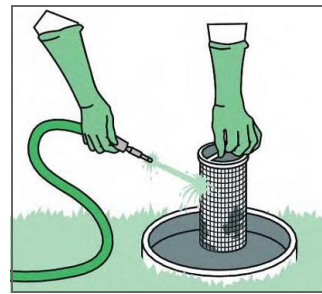
Concrete, coated steel, fiberglass, or plastic construction.

Required inspection or maintenance: usually once every 3 years



2. Effluent Filter

Located inside the septic tank. Keeps solids and other particles larger than 1/8 inch diameter from entering drainfield.



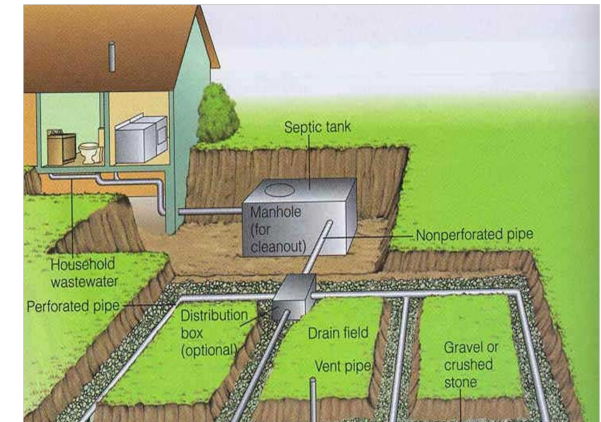
Required maintenance: as needed

Kitchen Sink: Don't overuse the garbage disposal

Toilet: Only human waste and toilet paper/tissue

3. Drainfield (Soil Absorption Cell)

Removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from the septic tank.



Parking: Never park or drive on your drainfield.

Planting: Plant trees the appropriate distance from your drainfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system. A septic service professional can advise you of the proper distance, depending on your septic tank and landscape.

Placing: Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drainfield area, as excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.

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