



**Never inspect or pump out a septic tank yourself!** The tank has virtually no oxygen and contains deadly gases that can kill in a matter of seconds. When it is time to clean or inspect your tank, ensure you call a professional.

## Septic Solutions

If your home is located in a rural area or a small community, you are likely one of the 25 % of Canadians who uses a private septic system.

A septic system treats your sewage right in your own yard and releases treated effluent back into the groundwater.



## Septic System Information

Ottawa Septic System Office  
[www.rvca.ca/osso](http://www.rvca.ca/osso)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
[www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)

Ministry of the Environment  
[www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment](http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
[www.mah.gov.on.ca](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca)

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre  
[www.orwc.uoguelph.ca](http://www.orwc.uoguelph.ca)

Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association  
[www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org)

Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services  
[www.oasisontario.on.ca](http://www.oasisontario.on.ca)

Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region  
[www.yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca)

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region  
[www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca)

For more information

**[Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection](http://Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection)**

Information in this pamphlet provided by the  
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region



# SEPTIC SOLUTIONS

# Treating your household wastewater

**Save money and protect your drinking water.**

[Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection](http://Ottawa.ca/sourceprotection)





## Septic Symptoms

On proper soils, and where homes are spaced well apart, septic systems can reliably treat household wastewater for years.

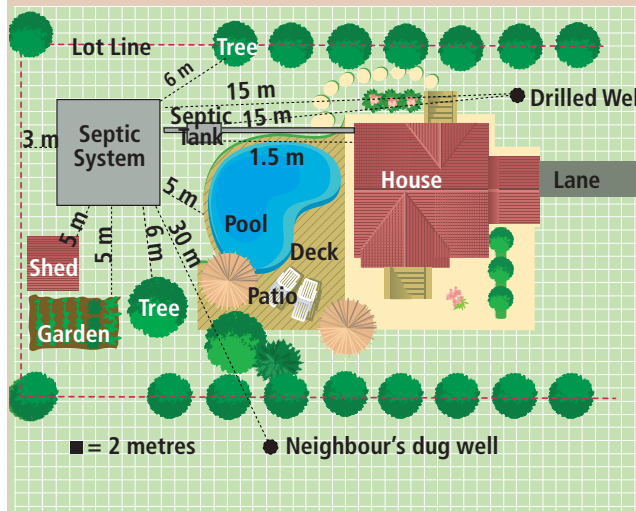
If you are experiencing any of the following warning signs or are wondering about the condition of your system, please consider having it inspected by a professional.

### Warning signs include:

- slow or backed up drains in your house
- spongy and/or lush spots on or near the leaching bed
- a sewage smell in the basement or outside
- poor quality of water in nearby wells or surface water

### Call a professional

Regular inspections are vital to proper maintenance of your septic system. They can identify any current or potential problems and ensure that your system has a long and useful life.



There are minimum distances between your septic system and other home and yard fixtures required under the Ontario Building Code. These distances are important; plan your lot accordingly.

Did you know... that new and replacement systems require a building permit? Your municipality can tell you who enforces these requirements in your area.



## Safe Septic Operation

Problems with septic systems often stem from improper use. Many homeowners with a septic system do not realize the importance of regular maintenance. Others connect additional toilets, showers, hot tubs, or other water uses without upgrading the size of their system.

Poor maintenance of your system can endanger drinking water for your family as well as your community by providing a gateway for contamination.

The following tips can help protect your investment and the environment:

- Know where your tank and leaching bed are located and ensure your tank is pumped out every 3 to 5 years
- Avoid putting grease, food, compost, wet naps, etc. down the drain or toilet
- Avoid parking vehicles on or driving over your tank and leaching bed, and do not construct driveways, buildings, or pools on or near any part of the septic system
- Be water smart by conserving and spreading out your water use
- Avoid excessive use of anti-bacterial soaps, bleaches, and harsh cleansers, and do not put paints, solvents, or other toxic chemicals down the drain
- Keep trees and shrubs away from the leaching bed

