

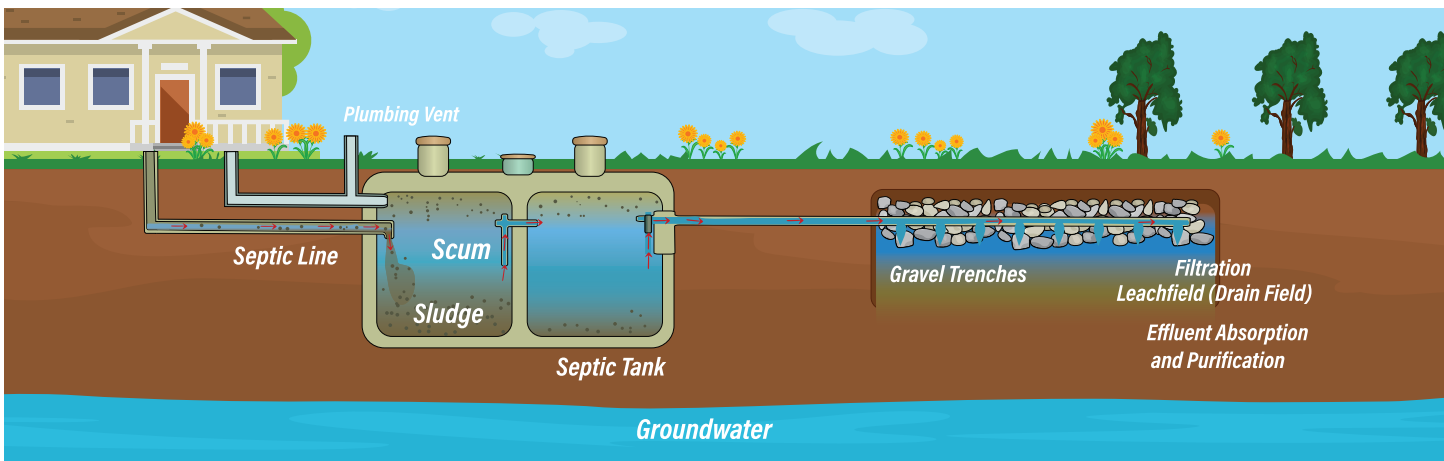
Septic System FAQs

1. How does my septic system work?

A standard septic system provides a residence with onsite wastewater treatment based on two key structures: the septic tank and the septic bed. In a properly functioning system, the wastewater that enters the system will eventually exit as purified water, either into the groundwater or atmosphere.

Septic Tank: All wastewater is discharged from the residence initially into the septic tank. Inside this large tank, heavy solids settle to the bottom (creating what is called a sludge layer) while lighter or less dense materials, such as fats, float. The materials in the septic tank are decomposed by bacteria.

Septic Bed: Liquids (called effluent) leave the septic tank and flow into the septic bed. The septic bed is made from a series of horizontal underground pipes surrounded by gravel. The effluent is slowly treated by soil microorganisms and gradually percolates into the ground water, or is drawn upwards by vegetation (grass).



2. Are there materials and products that should not go down the drain? **YES!**

Not Septic Safe

- Grease, oil, and other fats
- Plastics of any kind
- Wipes of any kind and cotton swabs
- Feminine hygiene products
- Kitty litter
- Cigarette butts
- Diapers
- Pharmaceuticals
- Vehicle fluids (anti-freeze, gasoline, motor oil, etc.)
- Paint, varnish, stain, paint thinners
- Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides

Prepared in Partnership With:
Township of The Archipelago

(705) 746-4243
septics@thearchipelago.on.ca
www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/septics



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