

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Cortland County SWCD

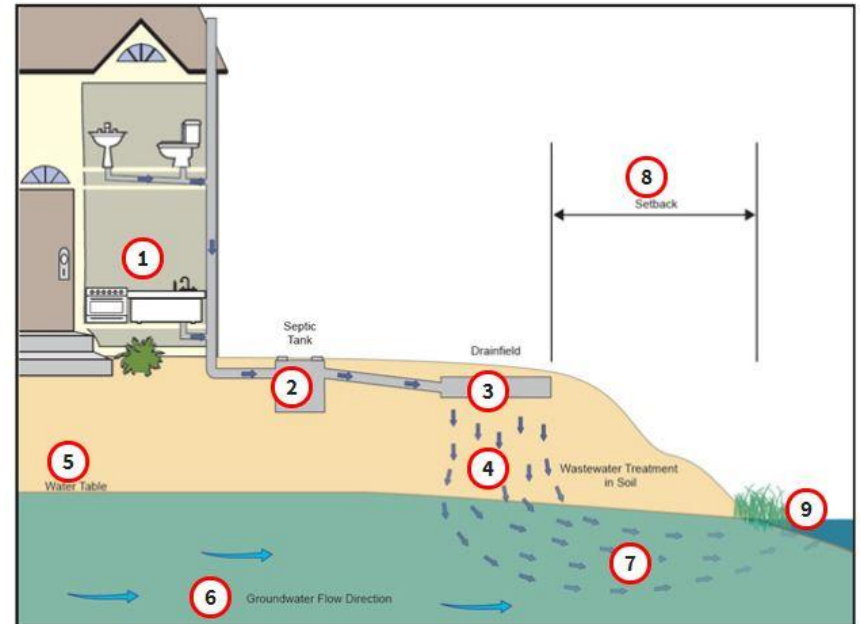
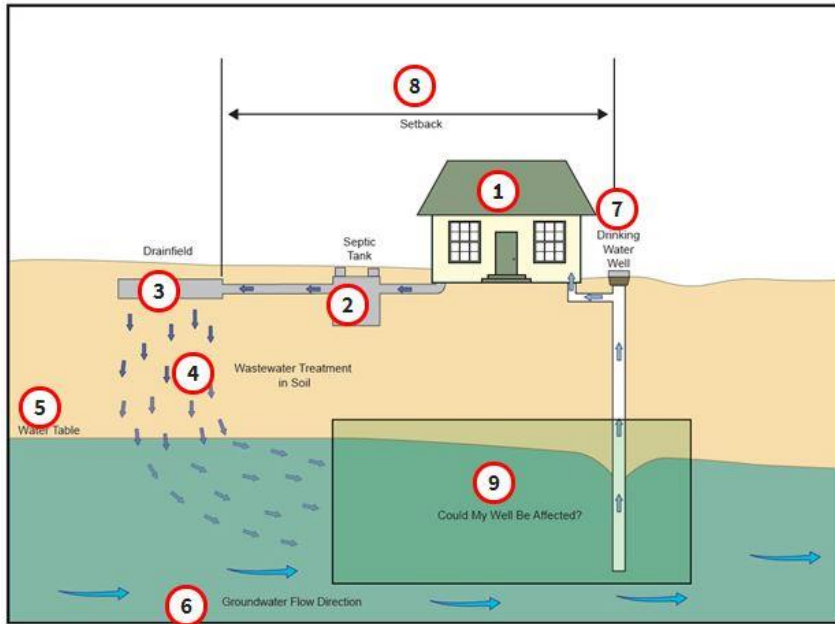
Amanda Barber, Manager

October 1, 2019

Health Risk



Water Quality Impacts



Challenges

- Sewer or septic?
- Out of site and mind
- No maintenance manual provided

Opportunities

- Engage partners
- Educate public
- Incentivize maintenance
- Protect water quality
- Private landowner empowerment

Process



Certificate of Completion

This certificate verifies that _____
 has successfully completed the 2018 Septic System Maintenance Workshop
 In the Town of Preble on this the 21st day of July, 2018

This workshop was sponsored and funded by the Cortland County Soil
 and Water Conservation District with presentations provided by the
 Cortland County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health.

Keep top half for personal records — Email bottom portion to Cortland County SWCD for redemption.

This coupon entitles the homeowner to a \$100 re-
 bate on septic system maintenance including, but
 not limited to, the pumping and inspection of their
 septic system. Septic maintenance must take place
 in Cortland County and rebate is limited to one
 coupon per homeowner per property.

**Please send in this certificate,
 along with a paid receipt to:**
 Cortland County SWCD
 100 Grange Place, Room 202
 Cortland, NY 13045



Homeowner Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Hauler Used: _____
 Date Served: _____
 Gallons Pumped: _____
 Other Maintenance Performed: _____
 Homeowner's Signature: _____

Coupon Expires 12/31/2018

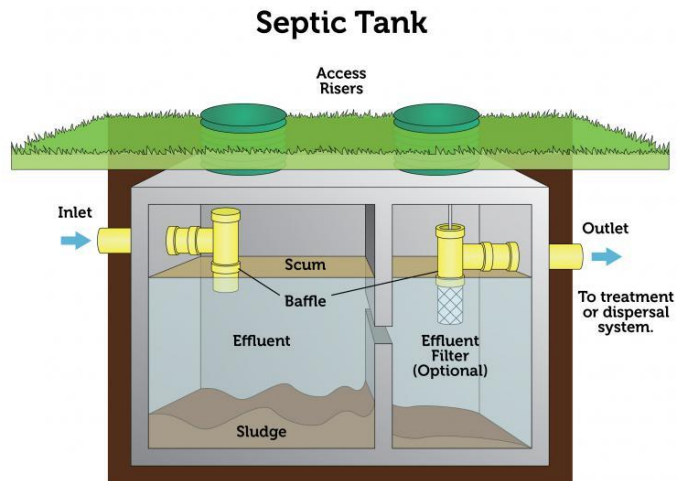
Certificate # _____



Seminar

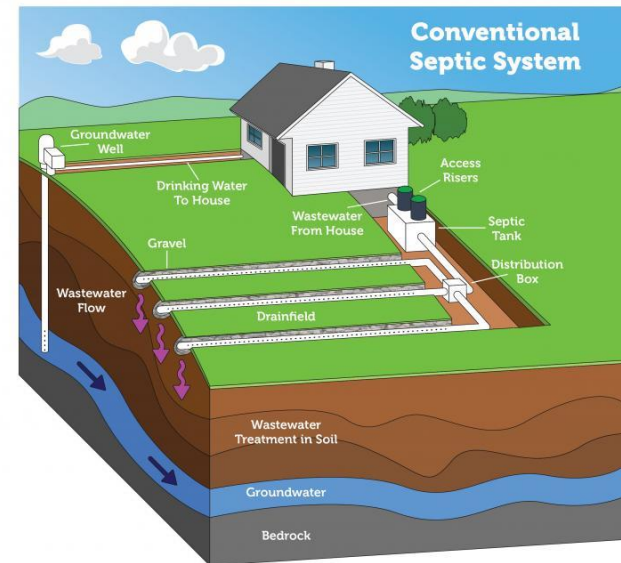
- Components
- Functions
- Failures
- Maintenance
- Repairs and enhancements

Septic tank



Please note: The number of compartments in a septic tank vary by state and region.

Conventional system with leachfield



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

Septic System Function and Failure

<http://www.gbra.org/septic.swf>

Lessons and Successes

- 10-30 attendees
- 50% redemption
- Positive evaluations
- Visibility

Resource Packet

Prepared by the Cortland County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, Cortland, New York - 1995

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

If you live in suburban or rural Cortland County, chances are you rely on a septic system to treat and dispose of your household wastewater. The purpose of a septic system is to treat wastes from your home in order to prevent contamination of nearby wells, lakes, and streams. A septic system is a simple, economic and effective means of disposing of household wastewater. However, a septic system must be properly located, adequately designed, carefully installed, and most importantly, properly maintained, in order to function effectively.

This folder contains information to help you better understand and maintain your septic system. As a homeowner, it is up to you to ensure that your system continues to work properly. A failed system is very costly to replace and can be hazardous to water quality. Areas of Cortland County over our aquifers and around our lakes have soils that are very permeable. Failing systems may not be detected in these soils. *Regular maintenance and proper operation are essential. Please do your share to protect water quality.*

HOW YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM WORKS

Wastewater flows from the house into the septic tank. Heavy solids settle out and are partially decomposed by bacteria to form sludge. Light solids and grease float to the top forming a layer of scum. Liquid wastes flow through an outlet near the top of the septic tank into a distribution box.

The distribution box disperses the wastewater evenly into soil absorption trenches. Here the water is further purified by filtration and decomposition by microorganisms in the soil. The water then enters the natural cycle.

SEPTIC SYSTEM

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!

Shield Your Field
Direct rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.

Don't Overload the Commode
Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.

Think at the Sink
Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring oils, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.

Don't Strain Your Drain
Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.

Protect It and Inspect It
A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.

Pump Your Tank
Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.

Keep It Clean
If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

EPA
100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Welcome! Did you know this property is served by a septic system?

Please help us be SepticSmart by taking steps to ensure that our septic system continues to operate as expected— helping protect the environment and ensuring a good stay. Whatever goes down our toilet, sink, or shower pipes ends up in our septic system and affects how well it works.

Please do your part to be SepticSmart by taking these simple steps:

- Think at the Sink!** Please keep grease, fats, harmful chemicals, and hair out of the drain. They can clog or damage our system and can cause an expensive plumbing repair.
- Don't Overload the Commode!** Please do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, wipes, hygiene products, or hair.
- Be WaterWise!** Stagger use of water-based appliances among house guests. All of the water in this home's pipes ends up in the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.
- Be Mindful of Guests!** If there are more people staying in our home than our septic system was designed to support, your guests may overload the system and mess up your stay. This is one reason why we cannot accept more than the maximum number of guests.
- When in Doubt, Follow an Easy Rule of Thumb:** Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. If you perceive an issue with our plumbing, please call _____ in the rare instance that sewage should back up into our home, avoid contact with it.

Following these easy steps will not only avoid septic system issues but will also help ensure an enjoyable stay.

www.epa.gov/septic

100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Questions?

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