



Signs of failure

- Sewage leaching to the surface
- Sewage odors around the septic tank or drain field
- Standing water or damp spots
- Bright green, spongy lush grass over the drain field even during dry weather
- Wastewater backing into household drains
- Cleanouts overflowing
- Groundwater contamination



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:



<https://www.epa.gov/septic>



OK Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Phone: (405) 702-6100 or 1-800-522-0206
<https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints-division/on-site-sewage/>



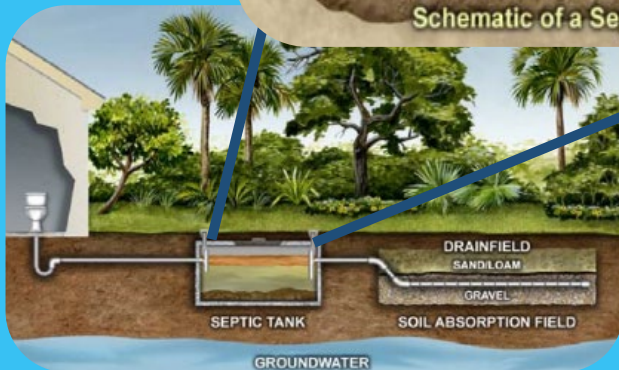
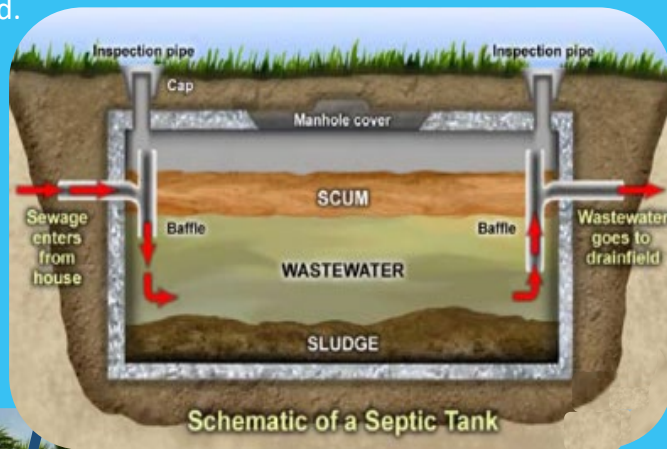
MWC Stormwater Quality
8725 SE 15th ST
Midwest City, OK 73110
Phone: (405) 739-1040
<https://midwestcityok.org/280/Stormwater-Quality>

ON SITE SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE

How Septic Systems Work

Septic systems usually compose of two main structures: the septic tank and the drain field. The septic tank is a water tight container designed to hold wastewater from the house until separation occurs. Solids settle below to form a sludge layer, oils and grease to rise and form a scum layer. A liquid layer forms the middle layer which flows out onto the drainfield. T shaped baffles at the ends of the septic tank prevent sludge and scum from flowing back into the house or onto the drain field.

The drainfield is an area where the liquid effluent gradually percolates (seeps) into the soil. As this liquid effluent percolates into the soil of the drain field the harmful bacteria and viruses in the effluent are naturally removed by microorganisms. This removal process ensures that harmful viruses, bacteria and other substances do not reach groundwater, well water, and local waterways such as creeks, rivers, and lakes.



Loxahatchee River District, Jupiter, FL Septic System brochure



Septic System Servicing Information

WHEN?

Four major factors determine the frequency of pumping a septic system: household size, septic tank size, total wastewater generated, and amount of solids in the wastewater. The average household septic system according to the EPA should be inspected at least every 3 years and pumped every 3-5 years (Aerobic systems need to be serviced more frequently).

WHO?

Owners of septic systems must operate and maintain their systems in a sanitary manner at all times at no expense to the city (MWC Code 1972, 37-101). As part of this maintenance a licensed professional is required to pump your septic tank. A list of licensed pumpers can be found at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints-division/certified-installers/>.

WHY?

Proper maintenance of your septic system protects your health, the health of your community, and the local environment by preventing harmful viruses and bacteria from getting into local waterways and groundwater. Additionally proper maintenance saves money and protects your property value (The EPA estimates maintenance fees of around \$250-\$300 every 3-5 years will prevent replacing/repairing a system which can cost anywhere from \$3,000-\$7,000). Failing septic tanks due to negligence may pose a legal liability risk due to the risk of viruses, bacteria and other harmful substances leaching out and endangering local health and safety.