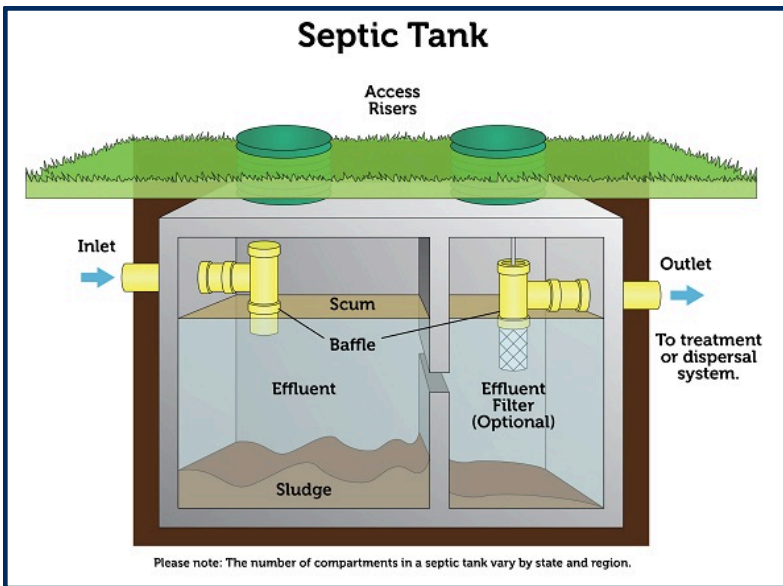




Residential Sewage Treatment Systems Operation and Maintenance Program Conventional Septic Systems

Septic Tank

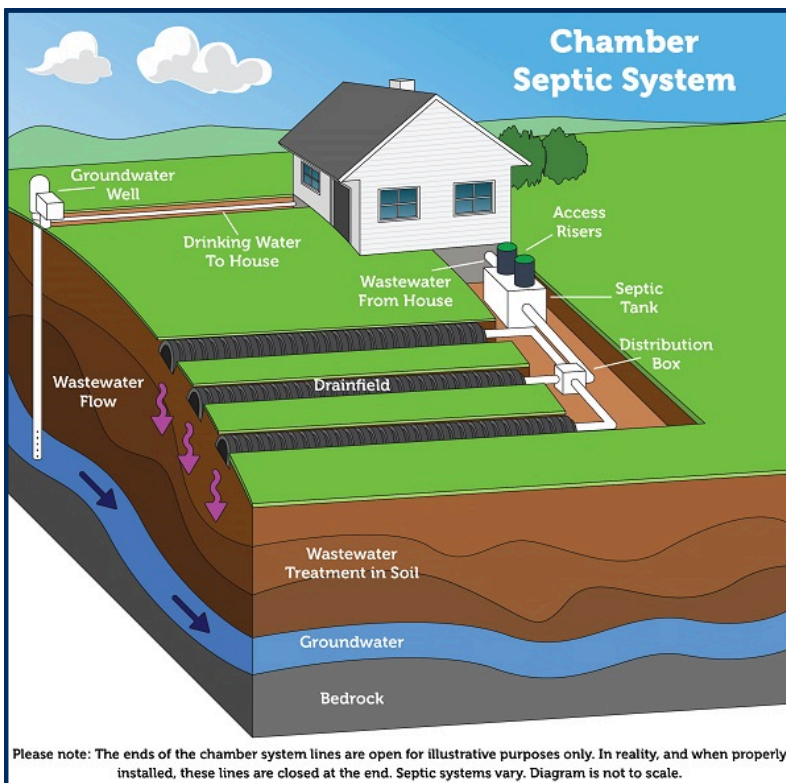


OVERVIEW

Household sewage treatment systems, or more commonly known as septic systems, act as wastewater treatment centers for homes that cannot access public sewers. Septic systems are typically made up with a tank and drainfield. The tank's primary objective is to allow solid waste to settle while also allowing wastewater to flow to the drainfield. This wastewater, more specifically known as effluent, is distributed throughout the drainfield and leaches into the ground.

SEPTIC TANK

Septic tanks are typically located nearby the house in which it serves. Septic tanks receive all waste water from the house directly into the first chamber through one main drain. Solid waste, or sludge, settles at the bottom of the tank and effluent rises until it reaches the second chamber. Natural bacteria in the tank help decompose sludge, however it is recommended that the tank is pumped every 3 to 5 years to prevent buildup. The second chamber contains a baffle with a filter which allows effluent to travel to the drainfield free of solids.



DRAINFIELD

In newer systems, once the effluent exits the septic tank it is distributed among a few different leach lines or chambers. These leach lines are perforated and allow effluent to trickle into unsaturated soil where natural bacteria and plants absorb the effluent. Remaining effluent travels through the soil and eventually reaches the aquifer, or groundwater, as water that is filtered from the harmful components associated with wastewater.

For more information on septic systems or septic programs, scan the QR code or visit the link below



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Updated: 07/01/2025

