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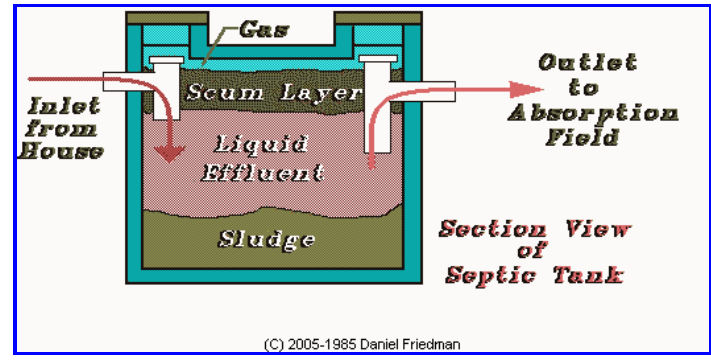


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The Septic Systems Information Website - Home

InspectApedia® -

- Buying, owning, maintaining, repairing, or installing a

- property with a septic system, septic tank, and septic drainfield, leach field or soakaway bed. We also explain cesspools, drywells, and related wastewater disposal systems.
- [Questions & Answers](#) about troubleshooting problems with building interiors: cracks, damage, mold, odors, stains, smells, sounds, interior ceiling, wall, floor finishes, bulges, damage.
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GREYWATER SYSTEMS

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HOME SELLERS GUIDE TO SEPTIC INSPECT

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LEACHFIELD FAILURE DIAGNOSIS

MEDIA FILTER SEPTIC SYSTEMS
MOUND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

NOISE / SOUND DIAGNOSIS & CURE

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ODOR DIAGNOSIS CHECKLIST, PROCEDURE
ODORLESS CHEMICALS / GASES: CHECK FOR?
ODORS, PLUMBING SYSTEM
ODORS, SEPTIC or SEWER
ODORS, SULPHUR SMELL SOURCES
OUTHOUSES & LATRINES

PLANTS & TREES OVER SEPTIC SYSTEMS
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SEPTIC TANKS

SEPTIC TANK GRASS or SNOWMELT
SEPTIC TANK, HOME BUYERS GUIDE
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SEPTIC TANK PUMPING REASONS
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SCHEDULE
SEPTIC TANKS, CONCRETE
SEPTIC TANKS, FIBERGLASS / PLASTIC
SEPTIC TANKS HOME MADE SITE BUILT
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SEPTIC TESTS: DYE & LOADING TESTS
SEPTIC TREATMENTS & CHEMICALS
SEPTIC VIDEOS

SEWAGE & SEPTIC CONTAMINANTS
SEWAGE BACKUP, WHAT TO DO
SEWAGE BACKUP TEST & CLEANUP
SEWAGE BACKUP PREVENTION
SEWAGE CONTAMINATION in buildings

- SEPTIC FAILURE LAWSUIT
 - SEPTIC FIELD INSPECTION
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 - SEPTIC TANK, HOW TO FIND
 - SEPTIC TANK INSPECTION PROCEDURE - home
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 - SEPTIC TANK PUMPING PROCEDURE
 - SEPTIC TANK PUMPING REASONS
 - SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SCHEDULE
 - SEPTIC TANK SAFETY
 - SEPTIC TANK SIZE

These septic system articles explain how to buy, inspect, install, test, diagnose maintain and repair septic tanks, drainfields, and all other components of all types of septic systems. We discuss how septic systems work, and how to provide septic system care to avoid replacing the septic system unnecessarily. We provide septic cleaning and septic maintenance procedures, septic inspection methods, septic repair guides, and septic system design information. If you don't see information you want, ask us for it using the comments box at the end of this article.

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[Drain Field Problems?](#) My Septic Guy Told Me I Needed A New System, He Lied, Here's Why [www.aero-stream.com](#)

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Septic Systems - ST/SAS Septic Tanks & Soil Absorption Systems: installation, inspection, diagnosis, maintenance & repair



We give in-depth information about conventional septic tanks, septic digesters, drain fields, soakaway beds, reed beds, seepage pits, cesspools, drywells, soakpits, and also septic pipes, and septic waste handling. We describe and explain the need for and how to install alternative septic system designs for problem sites where the need is to save water or where it is difficult to dispose of septic waste. We include tables for septic tanks: pumping frequency, septic tank size, septic tank design, and clearances between septic systems, wells, and other site features and boundaries.

This page organizes and links to our detailed septic system inspection, test, repair, and design articles, including our online septic systems book. Septic testing class presentations, septic system photos, septic system design sketches, septic care tables, links to products and consultants are provided.

"How-To" Articles at our Septic System Information Website are in these groups: (these links are also at page left)

1. [SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN BASICS](#), septic maintenance and septic care instructions for home owners and home buyers; steps to take when buying a home with a septic tank and septic fields, and basics septic system information about: |

Septic soil & percolation tests, septic tank size, septic tank depth, septic tank tees, filters, greywater, clearances septic system to other site features, drainfield size, drainfield shape, tank pumping frequency, tank pumping procedure, tank repair, septic treatments & chemicals, steep slope systems

2. [SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN ALTERNATIVES](#), septic system designs, designers, suppliers & products for Aerobic, Alternating Bed, Biogas, Cesspools, Disinfection, Drywells, Evaporation-Transpiration, Filters, Fixed-Film, Gravelless, Greywater, Lagoon, Latrines, Media Filter, Mound, Outhouses, Pressure dosing, raised bed, sand bed, sequencing batch reactor, sewage treatment, toilet alternatives, vegetative submerged bed, wastewater treatment, & wetland septic systems
3. [Septic System Design & Installation](#) articles on how to design a septic system.

SEWAGE CONTAMINANTS in FRUIT / VEGETABLES
 SEWAGE EJECTOR / GRINDER PUMPS
 SEWAGE LEVELS in SEPTIC TANKS
 SEWAGE NITROGEN CONTAMINANTS
 SEWAGE PATHOGENS in SEPTIC SLUDGE
 SEWAGE PUMPS
 SEWER BACKUP PREVENTION
 SEWER GAS ODORS
 SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

SINKHOLES, WARNING SIGNS
 SMELL PATCH TEST to Track Down Odors
 SOAKAWAY BED FAILURE DIAGNOSIS
 SULPHUR & SEWER GAS SMELL SOURCES
 SUMP PUMPS

TOILETS, INSPECT, INSTALL, REPAIR
 TOILET ALTERNATIVES
 TOILET FLUSHOMETER VALVES
 TOILET INSTALLATION PROCEDURE
 TOILET OVERFLOW EMERGENCY
 TOILET PLUGS, SEWER BACKUP
 TOILET REPAIR GUIDE
 TOILET TYPES
 Toilet Types, Flush Methods
 TOILETS, DON'T FLUSH LIST
 TRAPS on PLUMBING FIXTURES
 TREATMENTS & CHEMICALS, SEPTIC

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 WATER, WELLS, WATER TANKS: TESTING GUIDE
 WATER PURIFIERS
 WATER QUALITY TESTS, CONTAMINANTS, TREATMENT
 WATER QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT
 WATER QUANTITY USAGE GUIDE
 WATER, WELLS, WATER TANKS: TESTING GUIDE
 WETLAND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

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4. [Septic System Inspection & Testing](#), how to find and diagnose septic system problems
5. [Septic System Maintenance & Repair](#), septic system care, maintenance, repair or replacement procedures and products
6. [Septic Component & Product Suppliers](#) provides lists of suppliers and repair experts for septic systems
7. [Septic Videos](#): "how to" videos describe how to find the septic tank, how to find the drainfield, dealing with septic pump alarms, and other septic system inspection, maintenance, and repair tutorials in short videos hosted at You Tube



We discuss just about every septic system topic and product at this website: septic tank and septic system drainfield or soakaway bed design, septic tank size, septic tank pumping frequency, septic tank cleaning, and septic tank inspection.

We also discuss cesspools and drywells, aerobic septic systems, septic system repairs, treatments, and additives or chemicals. If you find that something is missing from this website just [CONTACT](#) us and ask for it.

"Septic tanks" are what home owners or home buyers think of when buying or maintaining a home with a private septic system. But we should be thinking about the whole septic

system - since the drain field or leach field makes up half of a typical septic system cost.

Septic tank care and septic tank cleaning need to be done on a regular frequency (we provide a septic tank pumping schedule table) in order to avoid ruining the drainfield.

Septic tank maintenance is not enough. Proper septic system design for the level of usage and soil conditions is critical if the system is going to have a long useful life. We are also quite concerned with septic system health and safety since there are potential collapse hazards which can be fatal, and there are bacterial and pathogen hazards for both site occupants and for the environment if a septic system is not working properly.

The articles listed at this website form an extensive guide to septic systems care, inspection, testing, and installation. We welcome questions and suggestions for content.

Information for Home Buyers or Owners

Septic System Basics - How Septic Systems Work, Septic Inspection, Septic Maintenance, Septic Repairs

- [Abandoned or New Septic System](#) inspection & testing suggestions
- [Additives & Chemicals](#) products for septic system maintenance. Are septic products needed? Are septic treatments legal?
- [Alternating Bed Septic Systems](#) may provide a retrofit repair for a failing drainfield or a means of extending drainfield life
- [Alternative Designs](#) for septic systems with problem sites, poor soil percolation, limited space: aerobic, dosing, evaporation, gravelless, greywater, lagoon, media filter, septic filters, mounds, raised beds, waterless toilets
- [Abandoning a Septic Tank - Guide](#) - how to safely find & abandoned unused septic tanks, cesspools, drywells
- [AGE of PLUMBING MATERIALS & FIXTURES](#) including piping, plumbing fixtures, septic systems, cesspools, drainfields
- [Backups and Clogged Drains](#) diagnosing septic backups and septic system failures versus clogged drains - key step in septic repair
- [Backup Prevention](#): extra steps to avoid a septic backup such as during a party or when you anticipate heavy use of the septic system
- [Backup Repair](#): what to do when the toilets or drains are backing up
- [Basic Designs](#) for septic systems, tank size, field size, design notes
- [BIOGAS PRODUCTION & USE](#) describes the production and use of methane produced by sewage or manure
- [Buy Septic Books Online](#) at Amazon.com - books for septic system design. septic system education materials
- [Buyer's Guide](#) Home Buyer's Guide to Septic Systems inspection & testing - what to do, step by step to inspect and test a septic system when buying a home
- [Biomat Formation](#) in the Septic System Drainfield Absorption System - what leads to drain field clogging and expensive drainfield repairs
- [Blocked Drain Repair Methods](#) - do-it-yourself steps you can try to clear a clogged drain before calling a professional plumber
- [Cesspools](#) home buyer's or Owner's cesspool maintenance advice
- [Cesspool Safety](#) warnings about cesspool, drywell, seepage pit collapse dangers
- [Contaminants in Sewage](#) which may be released from sewage spills from residential septic systems and wastewater disposal systems
- [Curtain drains](#) or intercept drains can protect septic drainfields in areas of wet soils or surface and subsurface groundwater
- [Design Guide for Septic Systems](#) complete list of detailed "how to" articles
- [Distribution Box - Septic D-BOX Inspection](#) provides for help in finding and inspecting the septic

system drainfield distribution box [Designs for Septic Systems - Master List](#) of Septic System Designs & Types, named and described

- [Distribution Box - Septic D-BOX Inspection](#) provides for help in finding and inspecting the septic system drainfield distribution box
- [Distances & Clearances](#) from septic system components to other site features, property boundaries, waterways, etc. - Avoid property being declared insalubrious or uninhabitable due to septic system space or function problems.
- [Don't Flush](#) these things into a septic system: a list of what's ok and what's not ok to put into septic tanks and building drains
- [Don't Pump Before Testing Septic Systems](#): warnings for home buyers about septic tank pumping
- [Drain Clogs, Slow Drainage](#): how to diagnose & repair slow or clogged drains; find out if the problem is in a drain or in the septic system, a key step in septic repair
- [Drain Noises](#): may indicate defective or clogged plumbing: how to diagnose and cure drain sounds
- [Drain Line Replacement](#) diagnosing a clogged drain leads to drain line replacement - step by step photo-illustrated guide to drain replacement
- [Drainfield Layout](#): septic drainfield or leaching bed shape and placement considerations
- [SEPTIC DRAINFIELD LOCATION](#): how to find the septic drain field or leaching bed
- [Driving or Parking over Septic Components?](#) is it ever acceptable to drive or park over septic system piping, tanks, or drainfields?
- [DRYWELL DESIGN & USES](#) home buyer's or owner's advice for drywell installation, testing, and maintenance [Definitions](#) of septic system terms, an online septic system dictionary
- [Drawing Library](#) © drawings of septic system components, fields, layouts. These are educational, not engineering drawings and are © protected. Sample engineering drawings and plans wanted for the website.
- [Filters for Septic Tanks & Graywater](#) to protect septic drainfields and reduce drainfield clogging
- [FLOODED SEPTIC SYSTEMS, REPAIR](#) - what to do after a septic system has been exposed to flooding, key septic maintenance and repair tips
- [Garbage Grinders](#) and garbage disposal units - effects on septic systems and septic maintenance requirements
- [Gases, Septic Methane](#) and other septic system gas hazards such as hydrogen sulfide
- [Grazing, Animals Over Septic Fields](#), is it a problem?
- [Inspection & Testing of Septic Systems](#) complete list of detailed "how to" articles
- [SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION LEVELS](#) - describes the parameters of visual inspections, tank and field inspections, dye tests
- [Septic Inspection Worksheets](#) for use with various types and levels of onsite septic inspection and testing
- [Septic Inspection Book](#) - online text describes septic system inspection, diagnosis, repair, design
- [Septic Inspection Course](#) - online documents
- [Life Expectancy of Septic Systems](#) and septic system components
- [Maintenance & Repair of Septic Systems](#) complete list of detailed "how to" articles
- [Neighboring Septic System Problems](#) - advice for dealing with a neighboring septic system producing odors or seepage
- [OUTHOUSES & LATRINES](#) - types, design, inspection, safety warnings
- [Outhouse or Latrine Fire and Explosion](#) - methane gas explosion and fire
- [Planting Over Septic Systems](#): trees, shrubs, gardens, groundcover over or near the septic system: what can you plant over or near septic system components without causing a problem?
- [Planting Gardens Near Septics](#), vegetables, fruits, other types of gardens
- [Pumps](#) Septic pumps, sewage ejector pumps, grinder pumps, effluent pumps, sump pumps, & septic pumping stations compared; pump alarms. Advice.
- [Reference Books, Codes, Design Guides](#) for septic system maintenance, repair, design, installation
- [Septic & Cesspool Safety](#) - septic system, septic tank, & cesspool safety warnings for septic inspectors, septic pumpers, and homeowners.
- [SEWAGE & SEPTIC CONTAMINANTS](#) - what contaminants are found in sewage or septic effluent
- [SEWAGE CONTAMINANTS in FRUIT / VEGETABLES](#) - is it OK for you eat fruits and vegetables grown over a septic drainfield?
- [Septic D-BOX Inspection](#) provides for help in finding and inspecting the septic system drainfield distribution box
- [Septic Tank Abandonment Guide](#) - how to safely find & abandoned unused septic tanks, cesspools, drywells
- [Septic Tank Depth](#) - how deep will we find or install a septic tank
- [SEPTIC TANK GRASS or SNOWMELT](#) - what is the significance of greener grass over the septic tank, brown grass over the septic tank, or melting snow over the septic tank or drainfield?
- [Septic Tank Inspection Procedure](#) - how to inspect septic tanks and evaluate the septic tank condition, baffles, sludge levels, damage, evidence of septic failure, etc.
- [Septic Tank Leaks](#) can prevent a valid septic loading and dye test and can damage the drainfield
- [Septic Tank Location](#) - How to Find the Septic Tank, how deep will the cover be, how to document its location
- [Septic Tank Pumping Frequency Guide](#) for septic tanks: when, how, what to watch for when pumping or cleaning septic tanks
- [SEPTIC TANK PUMPING REASONS](#) why relying on the septic tank pumping schedule table or advice from pumping contractors isn't enough
- [Septic Tank Pumping Procedure](#) step by step photo guideline of how to pump and clean a septic tank - septic tank care
- [Septic Tank Size](#): septic tank size and capacity vs. usage determine the required septic tank size, calculate size of an existing septic tank
- [Septic Tank Types](#): characteristics and inspection guide for steel, concrete, plastic, fiberglass, and home made septic tanks
- [Sewage Odors in Wet or Cold Weather](#) - Septic Odors or Sewage Odor Diagnosis & Repair Guide for diagnosing and eliminating cold weather sewer gas odors