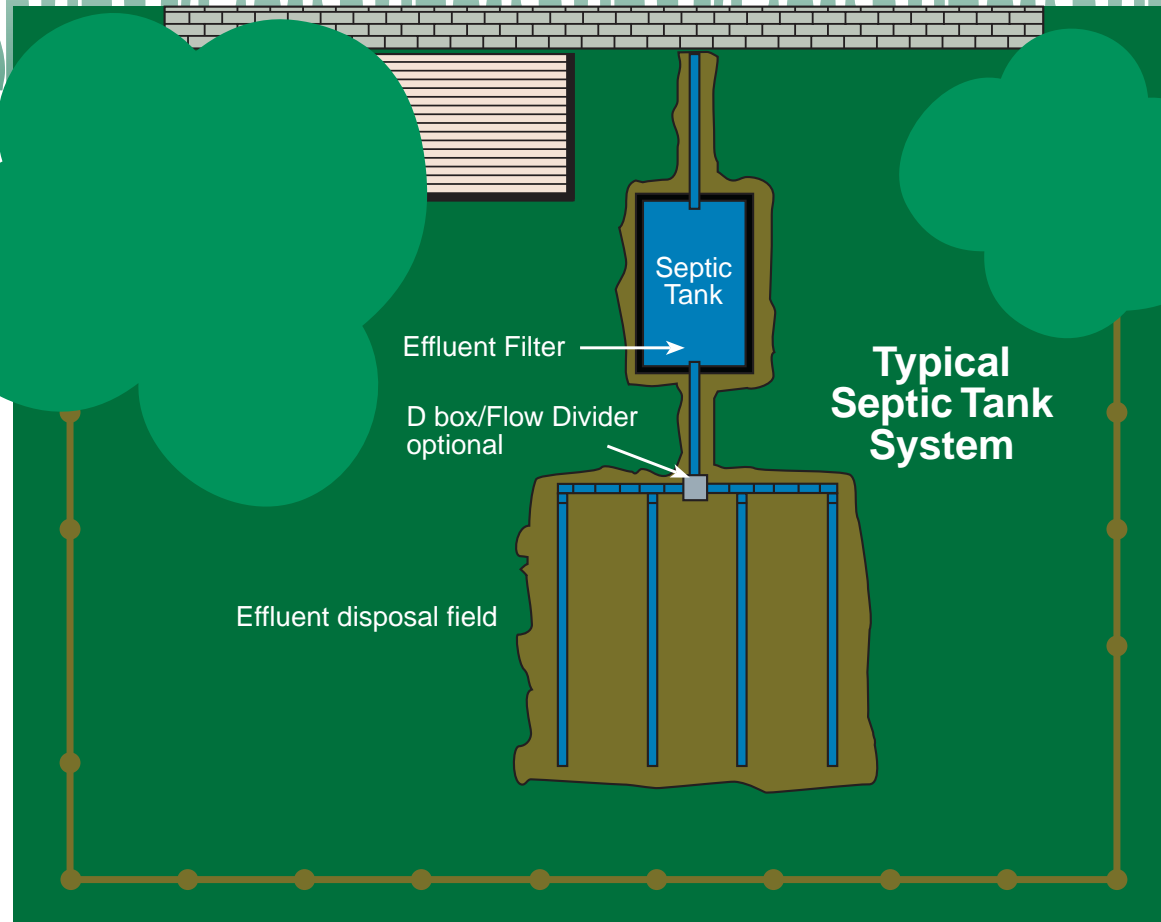


What is a Septic Tank



Septic tank systems are individual wastewater treatment systems that collect, treat and dispose of wastewater. They are reliable, cost effective and efficient. Septic tank systems are used where municipal sewers are not available or are impractical.

Your septic tank system consists of four components: the **septic tank**, **effluent filter**, **distribution box or a Flow Divider (optional)**, and the **effluent disposal field or drain field**.

Your septic tank retains wastewater to separate solids from the liquid while some bacterial

digestion occurs. The **effluent filter** installed in your septic tank helps to retain the partially digested solid materials in the tank. Keeping the solid material away from your drain field is crucial to the proper operation of your system.

The D-box or **Flow Divider** splits the wastewater evenly and sends it on to the drain field. Your drain field is the last step in treating your waste. Wastewater enters level trenches that contain gravel and pipes. Wastewater moves through these trenches and into the surrounding soil. The soil cleans the wastewater so that it can be recycled to the groundwater below.

Maintaining your Septic Tank System?

Your septic tank system should be properly maintained to assure years of trouble-free service. Contact your licensed technician to clean your septic tank and effluent filter every three - five years.

Proper maintenance of your septic tank system begins by installing an effluent filter in your septic tank. The filter will warn you when the system needs to be serviced. Failing to maintain your system will cause your system to fail.

Failing septic tank systems can:

- Endanger your family's health.
- Pollute the environment.
- Reduce your property value.
- Be expensive to repair.

Using an effluent filter and pumping your septic tank every 3-5 years will increase the life span of your system, prevent expensive repairs, and protect groundwater from harmful contamination.

WARNING
signs of potential system problems:

- Wet spots in the yard.
- Slow draining toilets or drains.
- Gurgling sounds in your drains.
- Sewage odors.

