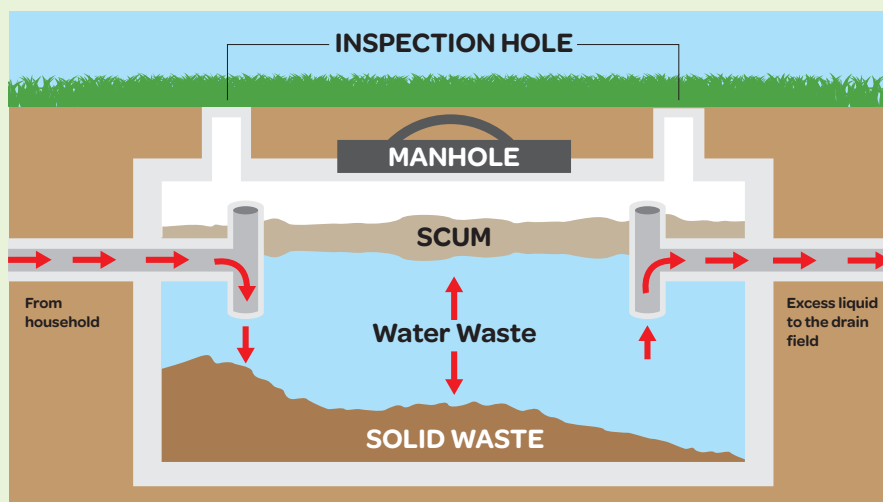


How healthy is your septic?

How septics work

All household wastewater flows in to your septic tank. Heavier solids settle at the bottom where bacterial digestion reduces them to a sludge, which gradually accumulates. Oil and grease rise to the tank surface to form a crusty cap.

The remaining effluent flows into drainage receptacles to soak into the surrounding soil (drain field), where it undergoes natural treatment processes.



What happens when septics fail?

Failing septic tank systems lead to effluent overflowing into the soil, polluting groundwater and causing problems, both in your backyard and beyond. Failure is common in older systems and those incorrectly installed or poorly maintained. Free draining soils, like the sandy soils of the peninsula, provide little filtering resulting in contamination of groundwater and the environment.

Why failing septic tanks are unhealthy?

Sewage contains a variety of microorganisms and parasites that can cause disease by direct contact or indirectly by consumption of contaminated food or water. The Peninsula ECO Project will replace unreliable septic tank systems with a modern sewer connection that removes wastewater completely from the environment and creates a safer, cleaner environment.

Telltale signs of a failing septic tank

Slow drains

A full septic tank will result in sewage backing up into household pipes. This will cause slow drainage in your sinks, toilets, bathtubs and washing machines. An unusual gurgling

sound when you run water or flush toilets is one sign. Another is sewage overflowing from the overflow relief disconnector gully - a small grated pipe outside the building.

Pooling water

Wastewater remains underground and unseen when the septic system is working properly. Pooling water or soggy ground indicates the tank is full. This smells unpleasant and is a health risk.

Smell

Household wastewater includes all the dirty water you send down a drain: from the kitchen and bathroom, from sinks, basins, bathtubs, dishwashers and washing machines and, of course, toilets. A nasty smell is a sign your septic system is full.

The grass is greener

If your septic system is working properly the lawn will be one shade of green; if its overflowing the grass above the drain field is likely to be lusher and darker.

Soil contamination

Overly full systems cause bacteria and nitrates to leach into the soil. Regular soil testing can tell you if this is happening.