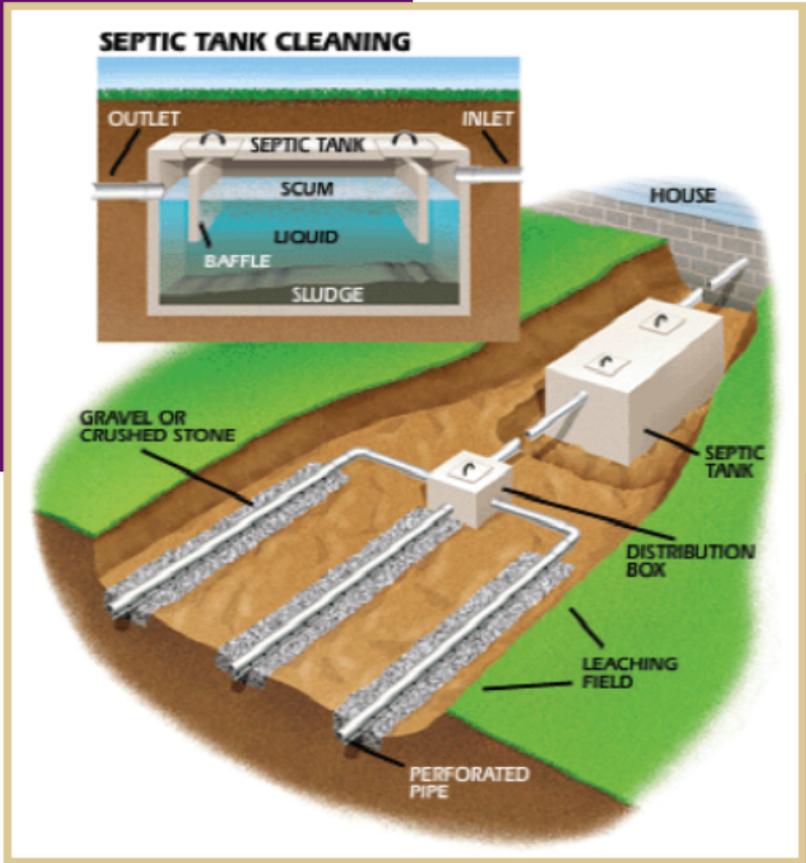


SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION



SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE



HOW TO AVOID PROBLEMS

One of the potential sources of water pollution is poorly functioning private septic systems. Water that carries harmful bacteria from failing septic systems can come into contact and pollute groundwater, rivers, lakes and streams. Additionally, these bacteria can cause illness in swimmers. Here are a few simple steps you can take to maintain your septic system so as to maximize its efficiency, reduce problems and expenses and provide protection for our waterways.



Flush only human and pet waste, wastewater and toilet paper into septic tanks.

Don't use your toilet as a trash can by dumping non-biodegradable items (such as diapers, sanitary napkins, condoms, kitty litter, fats, baby wipes, tampons, cigarette butts, grease, coffee grounds).



Avoid flooding your septic tank by fixing leaks and conserving water in your home. Leaking toilets are a major cause of septic system failure. You can test your toilet for leaks. One simple way to test for leaks is to drop food coloring in the tank. If you see food coloring in the bowl, then you have a leak. Fixing leaks will also help you save money on your water bill.

Have your septic system inspected and pumped at least once every three to five years.



Contact your local sewer authority to see if your home can be connected to the sanitary sewer system.

For more information on maintaining your septic system, visit www.cleanwatercampaign.com and click on the "What Can I Do?" section of the page.