



SepticSmart Week 2019: Promoting Best Practices for Community Involvement

September 18, 2019 1:00-3:00 P.M. ET

Decentralized Wastewater Webcast Series

SepticSmart Week 2019: Promoting Best Practices for Community Involvement

September 18, 2019 1:00-3:00 P.M. ET

EPA's Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership





SepticSmart Week – General Overview

Zach Lowenstein

EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program

U.S. EPA, Office of Wastewater Management,
www.epa.gov/septic



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/septicmart



What is SepticSmart Week?

- Outreach and education campaign to encourage homeowners to properly maintain and operate their septic systems
- Falls on the third week of September each year, since 2012
- Largest national scale septic system education awareness campaign
- MOU Partners are instrumental in disseminating SepticSmart products and messages

Recent Products – Quick Tips

Don't Strain Your Drain!



Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances (such as a washing machine) to avoid a back up of your septic system into your house. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



Shield Your Field!



Tree and shrub roots, cars, and livestock can damage your drainfield. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



Protect It and Inspect It!



Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars and protect public health. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



Don't Overload the Commode!



A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter and much more can damage your septic system. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



Keep it Clean!



If you have a well, many things can contaminate your drinking water, such as a failing septic system. Test your well water regularly. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



Pump Your Tank!



Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



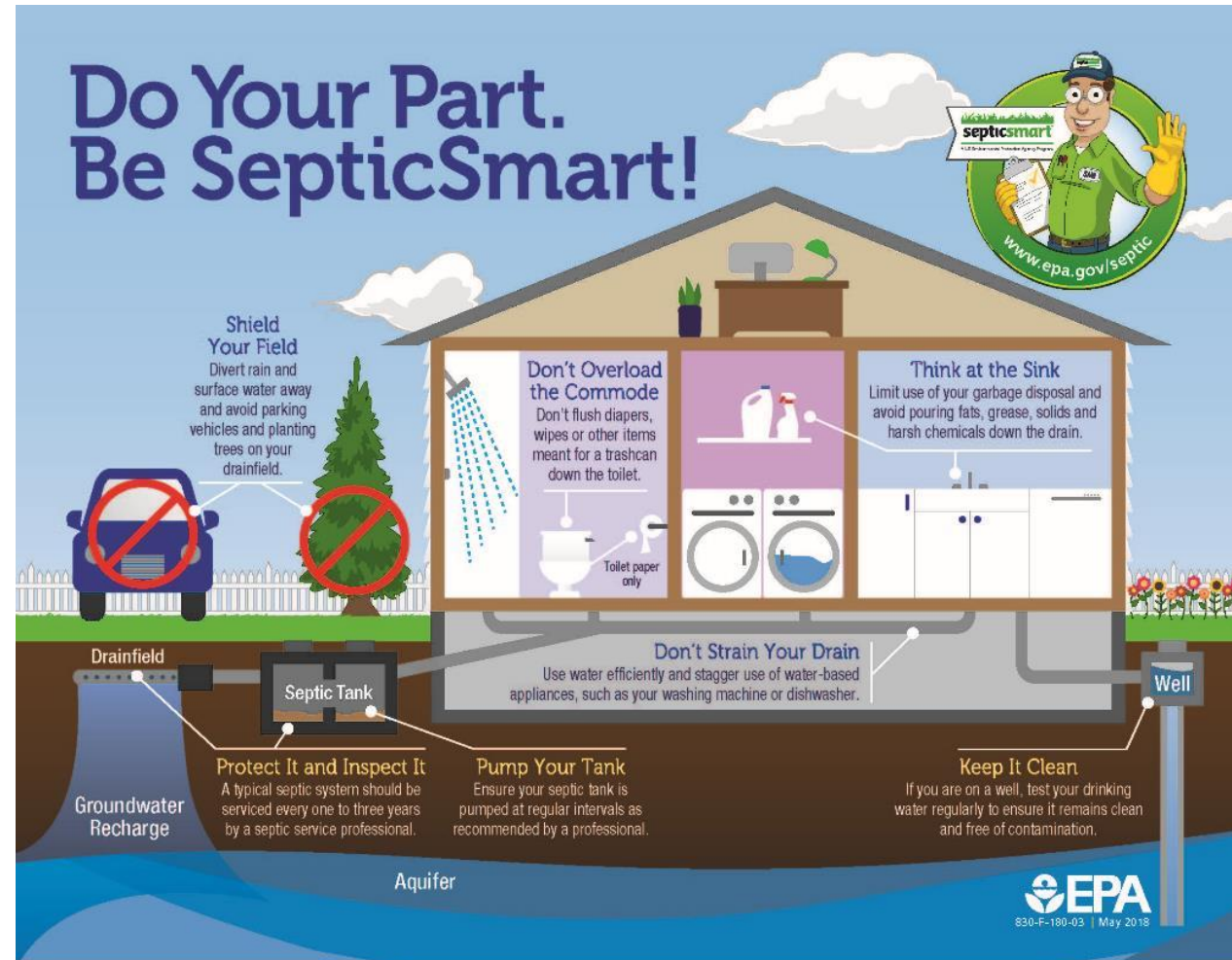
Think at the Sink!



What goes down your drain has a big impact on your septic system. Avoid harsh chemicals and use cleaners/detergents in moderation. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



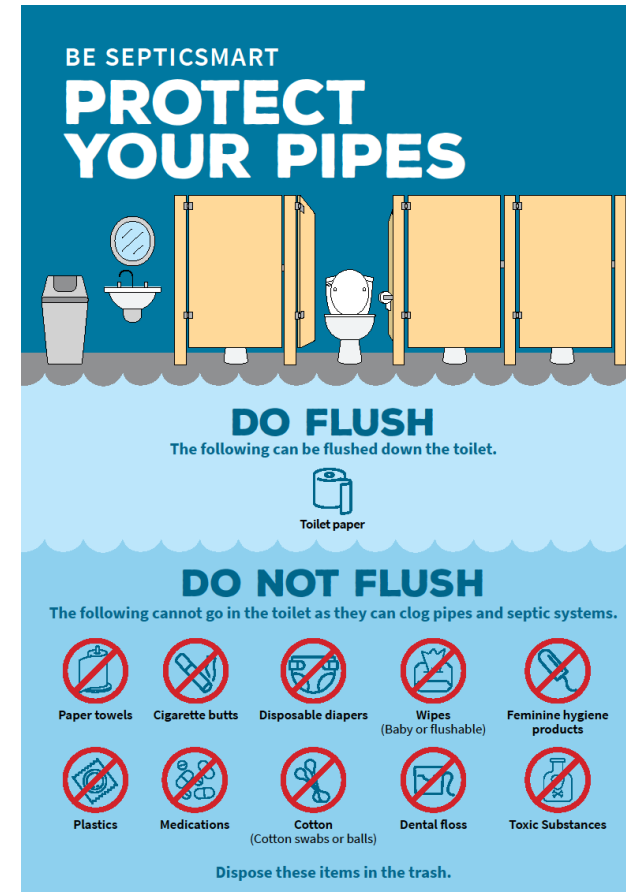
Recent Products– Updated Infographic



Recent Products – Posters



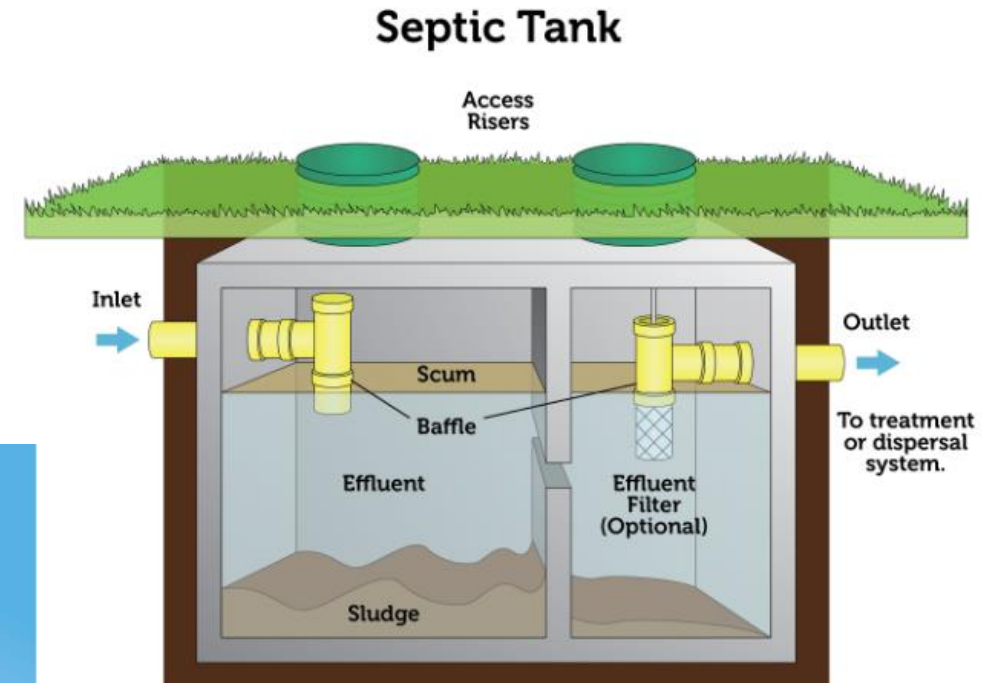
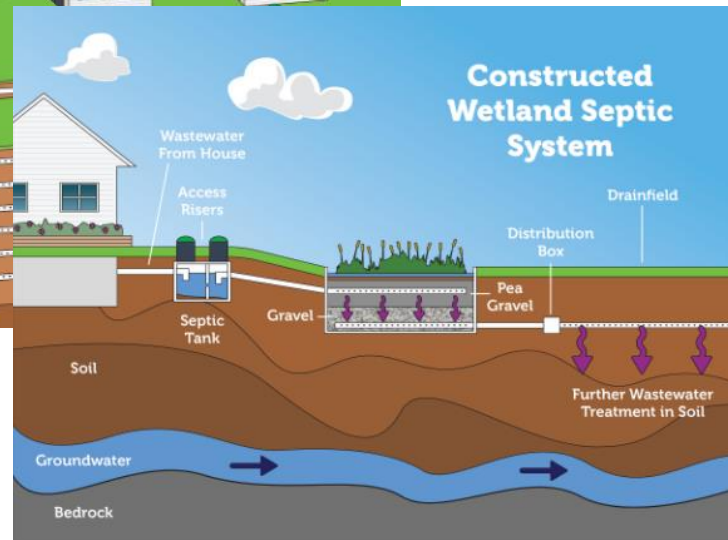
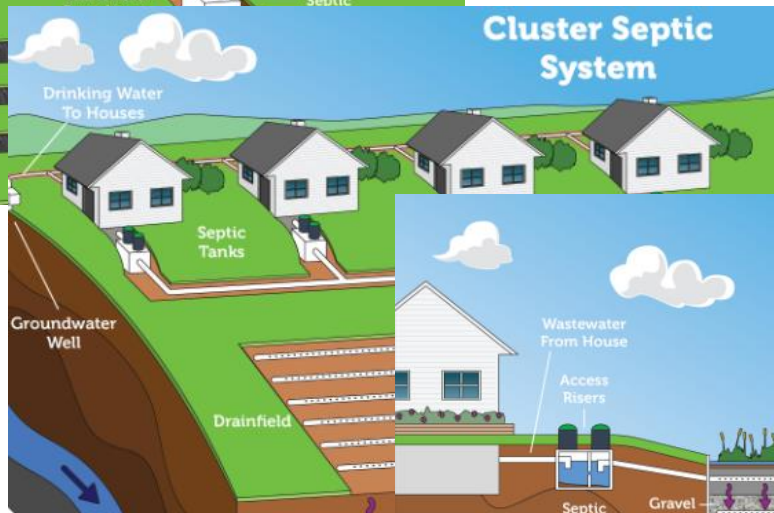
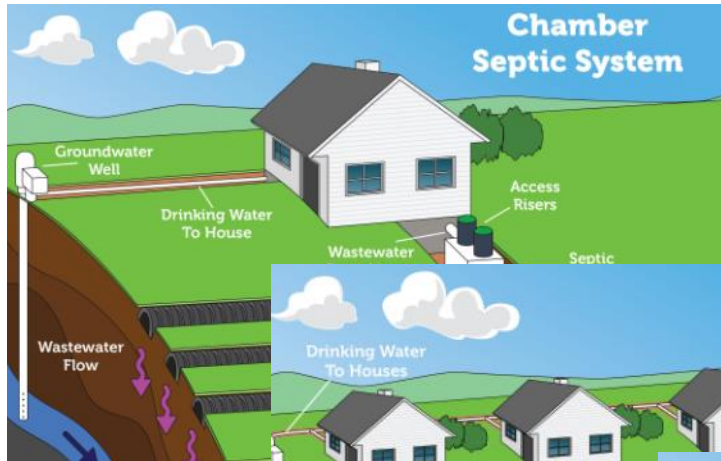
Organization logo
placeholder



Organization logo
placeholder



Recent Products – Septic System Diagrams



Recent Products – Spanish Translations


¡No recargue el drenaje!



Sea eficiente: los aparatos que funcionan con agua (como la lavadora de ropa) deben usarse uno por uno para evitar recargar el sistema séptico de su casa. Obtenga más información en www.epa.gov/septic.

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Los 10 hábitos para mantener su sistema séptico en buen estado



- ✓ Haga que un profesional calificado inspeccione su sistema séptico cada tres años, o según las recomendaciones de su estado o del departamento de salud de su lugar.
- ✓ Bombee su tanque séptico cuando sea necesario, por lo general entre tres a cinco años.
- ✓ Evite echar productos irritantes por la tubería (por ej., aceite, grasa, químicos, pinturas, medicamentos).
- ✓ Tire los productos no degradables en la basura (por ej., hilo dental, pañales descartables, arena sanitaria para gatos) en lugar de echarlos en el inodoro.
- ✓ Estacione los automóviles y vehículos pesados lejos del área de drenaje y del tanque.
- ✓ Siga las indicaciones del fabricante cuando utilice limpiadores y aditivos para el tanque séptico.
- ✓ Repare las fugas y utilice accesorios eficaces para evitar sobrecargar el sistema.
- ✓ Cuide las plantas y vegetación cerca del sistema para asegurarse de que las raíces no bloqueen los drenajes.
- ✓ Use jabones y detergentes de poca espuma, biodegradables y sin (o con poco) fosfato.
- ✓ Evite que el sistema se congele en épocas de temperaturas bajas para lo cual deberá inspeccionar y aislar las partes más delicadas (por ej., el tubo de inspección y el área de tratamiento del suelo).

septicmart
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Si desea más consejos SepticSmart, visite www.epa.gov/septic

EPA EPA-832-F-160-10a | Abril 2016

¿Tiene un sistema séptico?
Llame a un proveedor de servicios de sistemas sépticos para que le revise el suyo.

Un mantenimiento regular del sistema puede ahorrarle ¡miles de dólares!



EPA
832-F-180-02s | Abril 2018

Just Released – New SepticSmart Magnet

A graphic for the SepticSmart Magnet. It features a cartoon plumber character in a green shirt, blue pants, and a blue cap, holding a clipboard. The background is light blue with clouds and green grass at the bottom. The text is arranged in a clean, organized layout with yellow and orange accents.

Protect Your Septic System!

- ☒ **AVOID FLUSHING**
Disposable diapers and wipes, sanitary products, medications, cat litter, etc.
- ☒ **AVOID POURING**
Harsh chemicals, grease, and coffee grounds down the drain.

Regular septic system maintenance can save thousands of dollars!

Service Date

Service Company Name

Phone

EPA
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

septicSMART
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

832-E-19-001 | June 2019

Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic or contact your local environmental office.

Just Released – Rental Property Materials

Welcome! Did you know this property is served by a septic system?

Please help us be SepticSmart by taking steps to ensure that our septic system continues to operate as expected – helping protect the environment and ensuring a good stay. Whatever goes down our toilet, sink, or shower pipes ends up in our septic system and affects how well it works.

Please do your part to be SepticSmart by taking these simple steps:

- ✓ **Think at the Sink!** Please keep grease, fats, harmful chemicals, and hair out of the drain. They can clog or damage our system and can cause an expensive plumbing mess.
- ✓ **Don't Overload the Commode!** Please do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, wipes, hygiene products, or hair.
- ✓ **Be WaterWise!** Stagger use of water-based appliances among house guests. All of the water in this home's pipes ends up in the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.
- ✓ **Be Mindful of Guests!** If there are more people staying in our home than our septic system was designed to support, your guests may overload the system and mess up your stay. This is one reason why we cannot accept more than the maximum number of guests.
- ✓ **When in Doubt, Follow an Easy Rule of Thumb:** Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. If you perceive an issue with our plumbing, please call _____. In the rare instance that sewage should back up into our home, avoid contact with it.

Following these easy steps will not only avoid septic system issues but will also help ensure an enjoyable stay.



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

To protect this home's plumbing, please keep grease, fats, and harmful chemicals out of the drain.



832-14-190-02 | September 2019



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

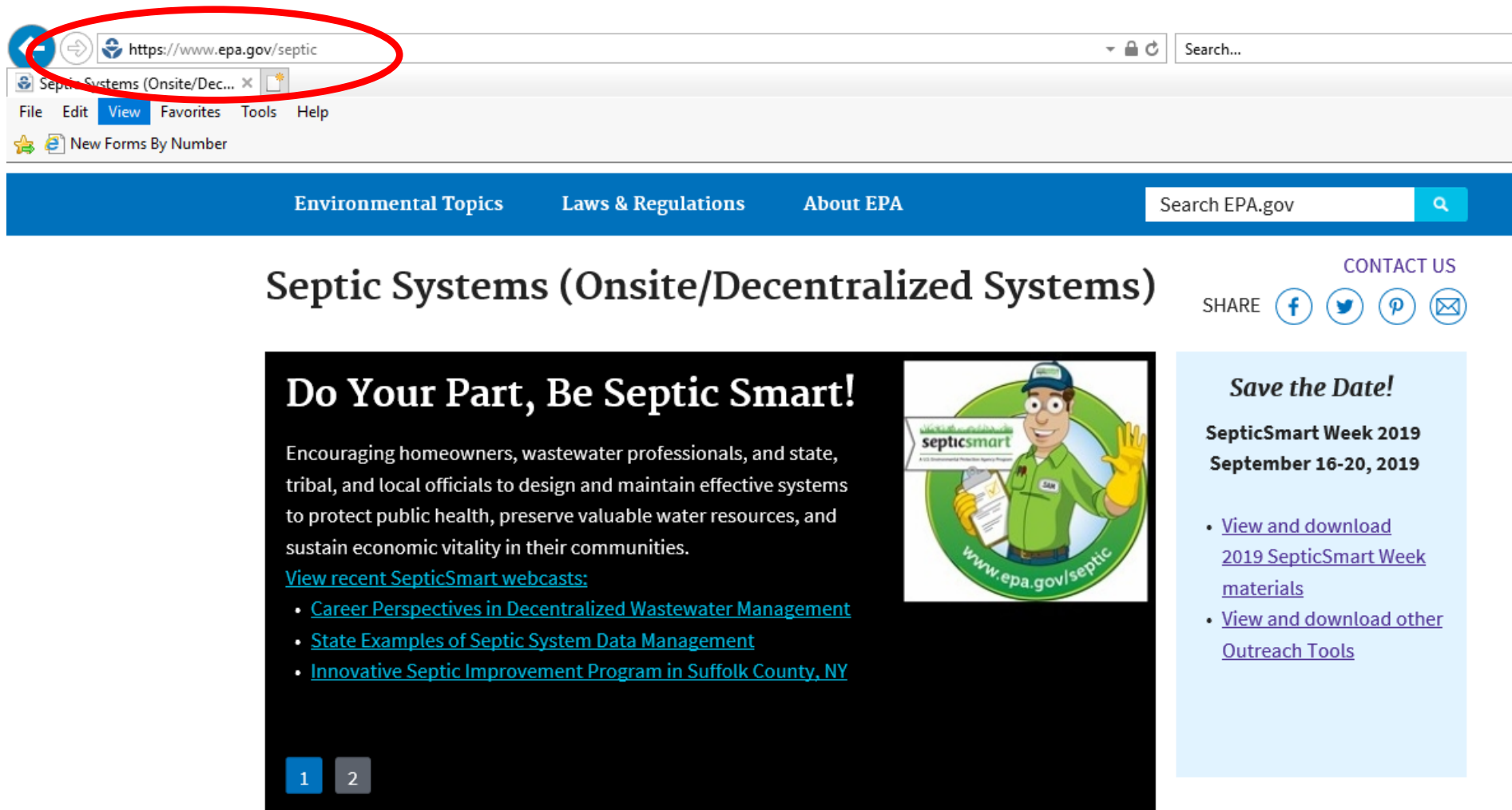
This home has a septic system. To prevent plumbing problems, keep hygiene products, hair, wipes, medicine, trash, and other products out of the toilet and drain.



832-F-190-15 | September 2019







How to access SepticSmart Week materials?



<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

Septic Systems (Onsite/Decentralized Systems)

CONTACT US


SHARE    

Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart!

Encouraging homeowners, wastewater professionals, and state, tribal, and local officials to design and maintain effective systems to protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and sustain economic vitality in their communities.

[View recent SepticSmart webcasts:](#)

- [Career Perspectives in Decentralized Wastewater Management](#)
- [State Examples of Septic System Data Management](#)
- [Innovative Septic Improvement Program in Suffolk County, NY](#)



Save the Date!

SepticSmart Week 2019
September 16-20, 2019

- [View and download 2019 SepticSmart Week materials](#)
- [View and download other Outreach Tools](#)

1 2





How to access SepticSmart Week materials?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.epa.gov/septic>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible. The website's navigation bar includes links for Environmental Topics, Laws & Regulations, and About EPA, along with a search bar. The main content area is titled "Septic Systems (Onsite/Decentralized Systems)". Below this title, there is a "Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart!" section with a description and a list of recent webcasts. To the right of this section is a circular logo featuring a cartoon character holding a clipboard, with the text "septicSMART" and "www.epa.gov/septic". Further right is a "Save the Date!" section for "SepticSmart Week 2019" held from "September 16-20, 2019". This section contains two bullet points: "View and download 2019 SepticSmart Week materials" and "View and download other Outreach Tools". The second bullet point is circled in red. At the bottom left of the main content area, there are two small square buttons labeled "1" and "2".

Environmental Topics Laws & Regulations About EPA Search EPA.gov

Septic Systems (Onsite/Decentralized Systems)

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SHARE    

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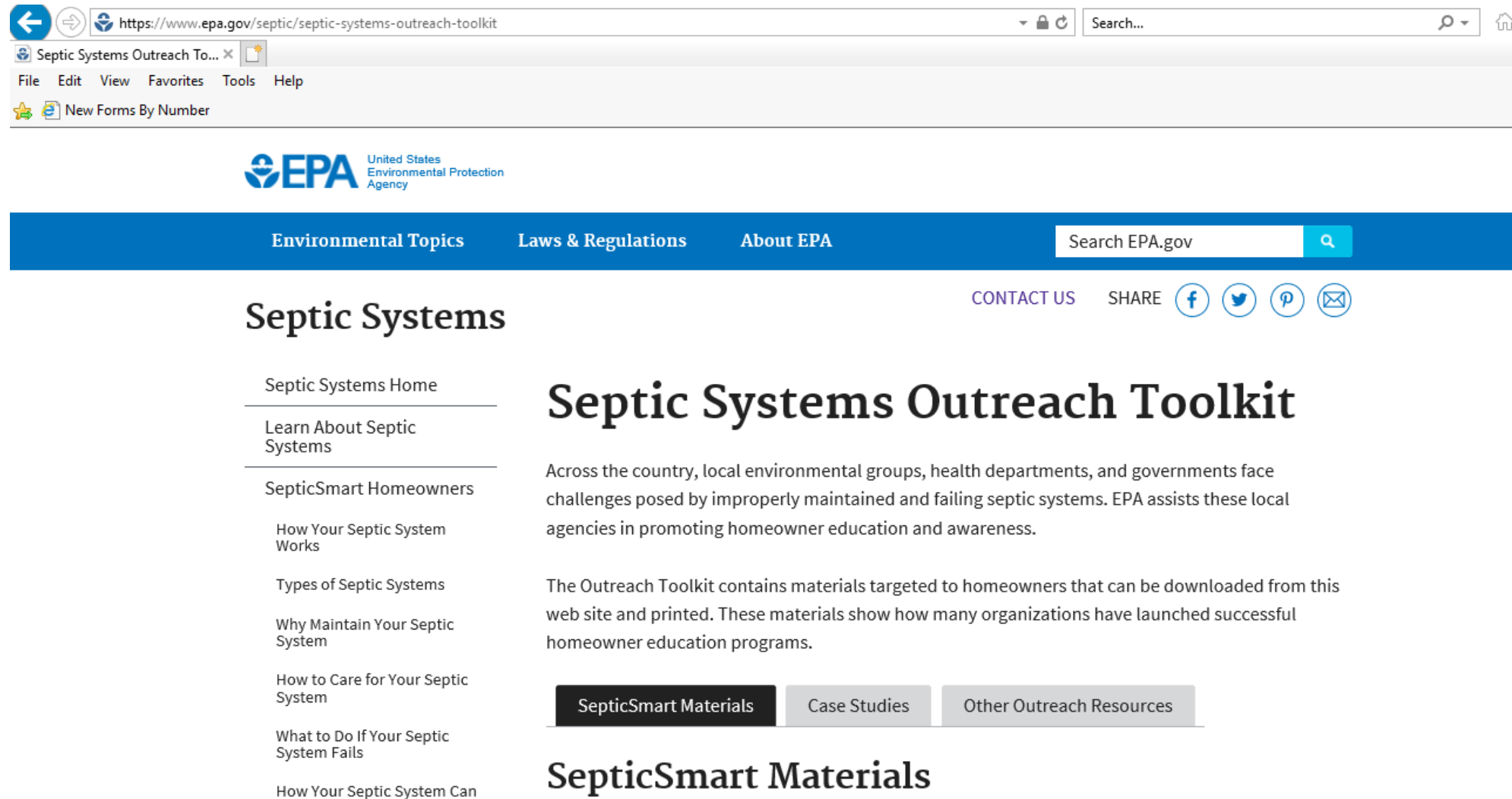
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1 2





How to access SepticSmart Week materials?



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-outreach-toolkit>. The browser's address bar includes navigation buttons and a search field. The page header features the EPA logo and a navigation menu with links to Environmental Topics, Laws & Regulations, and About EPA. A search bar labeled "Search EPA.gov" is also present. The main content area is titled "Septic Systems" and includes a sidebar with links to various resources. The main heading is "Septic Systems Outreach Toolkit", followed by a paragraph describing the toolkit's purpose. Below this, there are three tabs: "SepticSmart Materials" (which is selected), "Case Studies", and "Other Outreach Resources". The "SepticSmart Materials" tab is currently active, showing the title "SepticSmart Materials".

Environmental Topics Laws & Regulations About EPA Search EPA.gov

Septic Systems

CONTACT US SHARE    

- Septic Systems Home
- Learn About Septic Systems
- SepticSmart Homeowners
 - How Your Septic System Works
 - Types of Septic Systems
 - Why Maintain Your Septic System
 - How to Care for Your Septic System
 - What to Do If Your Septic System Fails
 - How Your Septic System Can

Septic Systems Outreach Toolkit

Across the country, local environmental groups, health departments, and governments face challenges posed by improperly maintained and failing septic systems. EPA assists these local agencies in promoting homeowner education and awareness.

The Outreach Toolkit contains materials targeted to homeowners that can be downloaded from this web site and printed. These materials show how many organizations have launched successful homeowner education programs.

SepticSmart Materials Case Studies Other Outreach Resources

SepticSmart Materials

How to access SepticSmart Week materials?

SepticSmart Materials



Download the high-resolution PDF files for easy printing and distribution to homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems in your area. Customize the WORD files to meet your needs.

SepticSmart Week Proclamation

Want to develop a SepticSmart Week Proclamation in your area? Use the editable proclamation template to get started:

- [SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Governors \(WORD\)](#) (1 pg, 109 K)
- [SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Mayors \(WORD\)](#) (1 pg, 109 K)
- [SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Leaders \(WORD\)](#) (1 pg, 111 K)

SepticSmart Posters

Do you know of any parks, campgrounds, highway rest stops, or similar facilities, that use a septic system for their public restrooms? What about a restaurant on a site that is served by a septic system? Use these informative posters to print



Quick Tips to Keep Your Septic System Healthy

Looking for a quick and easy guide on how to care for your septic system? Check out this diagram and learn how to do your part:

- [Do Your Part. Get SepticSmart! Infographic \(English version and Spanish version\)](#)



SepticSmart Week Quick Tips

These easy to remember phrases and quick tips make staying SepticSmart a breeze. Download these images and share them on social media, print them for home or business use, or use them as outreach materials. High resolution versions for larger sized printing (i.e., posters) are available upon request.

- Think at the Sink! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Don't Strain Your Drain! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Keep It Clean! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Shield Your Field! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Protect It and Inspect It! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Don't Overload the Commode! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)
- Pump Your Tank! [English version](#) | [Spanish version](#)




Partner Highlights from SepticSmart Week 2018

- More than 2.6 million Twitter impressions from posts using #SepticSmart
- 18 proclamations: 10 states, 1 local County and 7 NGOs - including 5 MOU Partners that are NGOs
- Video interview with Vermont's Dept of Environmental Conservation
- Training for service providers in New York, and homeowner sessions and trainings in Arkansas, Michigan, Washington and Georgia
- Outreach to more than 50+ tribes in EPA Region 9 through site visits, trainings, newsletters and information sharing

Local Media (TV and Radio)

Health department reminds residents to have septic systems serviced

Times Herald | Published 1:57 p.m. ET Sept. 14, 2018



(Photo: Getty Images)

The St. Clair County Health Department is marking SepticSmart Week in Michigan, Sept. 17-21.

According to a health department news release, about 25,000 homes in St. Clair County use septic systems to treat their wastewater.

Steve Demick, county environmental health director, said residents on septic can take advantage of SepticSmart Week to schedule their next septic system service.

"If not properly maintained or inspected, failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater and harm the environment by releasing bacteria and household toxics to local waterways", Demick said in the news release. "These seven simple tips are important for protecting environmental health and preventing a costly system replacement."

- Protect It and Inspect It: A professional should inspect the system every three years
- Think at the Sink: Avoid pouring fats, grease and solids down sink drains
- Don't Overload the Commode: Only put things in the drain or toilet that belong there
- Don't Strain Your Drain: Be water-efficient and spread out water use
- Shield Your Field: Do not park or drive on a system's drainfield

WTVY .com

Weather Sports Livestream

Home / Health / Article

SepticSmart Week reminds homeowners about proper care and maintenance of septic tanks



By Press Release: AL Dept. of Public Health | Posted: Mon 12:17 PM, Sep 17, 2018

(WTVY) — The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) joins other state and local governments, the private sector, communities, and academia in sponsoring SepticSmart Week 2018 during the week of September 17-21, 2018. This is an annual observance focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems.

About half of Alabama households and more than one-fifth of U.S. households utilize an individual onsite system or small community cluster septic system to treat their wastewater. These systems treat and dispose of relatively small volumes of wastewater and include a wide range of individual and cluster treatment options to process household and commercial sewage.

Onsite systems provide a cost-effective, long-term option for treating wastewater, particularly in sparsely populated areas. When properly installed, operated and maintained, these systems help protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and maintain a community's economic vitality.


Search ... Menu **The Cheshire Herald**

Tips On How To Protect Your Septic System

Free Access

Cheshire Herald | on September 14, 2018

f t G+ p e in b c h s +



CHESPROCOTT
HEALTH DISTRICT

The following information was provided by Chesprocott Health District: =

The Department of Public Health (DPH), the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chesprocott Health District are teaming up to present Septic Smart Week 2018, an annual event focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. This awareness week will run from Monday, Sept. 17, to Friday, Sept. 21.

In Connecticut, more than 1 million people are served by an individual onsite system or small community septic system to treat their wastewater. These systems treat and dispose of wastewater and include a wide range of individual and cluster treatment options to process household and commercial sewage. These systems go by such names as septic, subsurface sewage disposal, wastewater treatment, on-lot, individual sewage disposal, and private sewage system. Subsurface sewage disposal systems provide a cost-effective, long-term option for treating wastewater. When properly installed, operated, and maintained, these systems help protect public health, preserve valuable water community's economic vitality.

ts://www.superiorstoneandfireplace.com/

Local Media (TV and Radio)

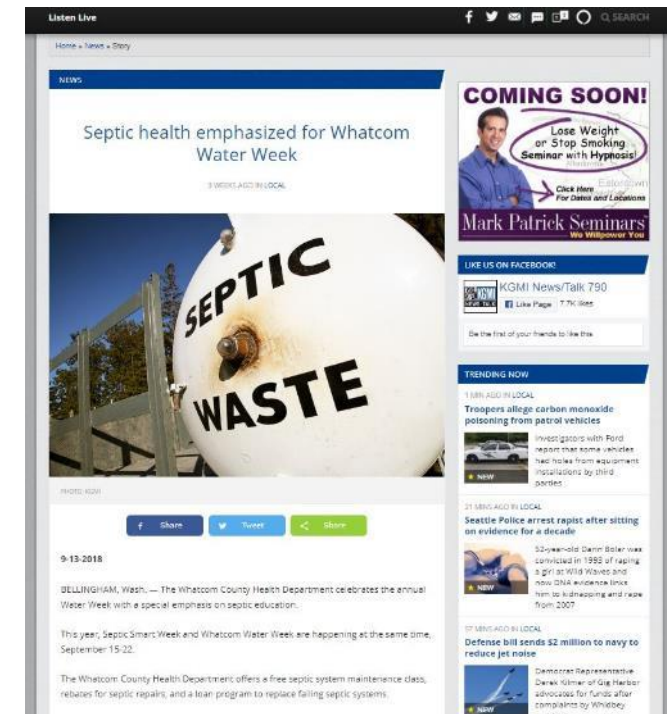
WCAX News - Vermont

Septic Smart Week brings awareness to importance of sewer maintenance



Posted: Thu 7:45 AM, Sep 20, 2018 | Updated: Thu 12:39 PM, Sep 20, 2018

KGMI Radio- Washington



SepticSmart Training Courses

10 different training sessions held in 6 states

- Cobb County, Georgia
- Whatcom County, Washington
- Clallam County, Washington
- Skagit County, Washington
- Benton County Health Unit, Arkansas
- Kalamazoo County, Michigan
- California
- New York



Fun Community Outreach



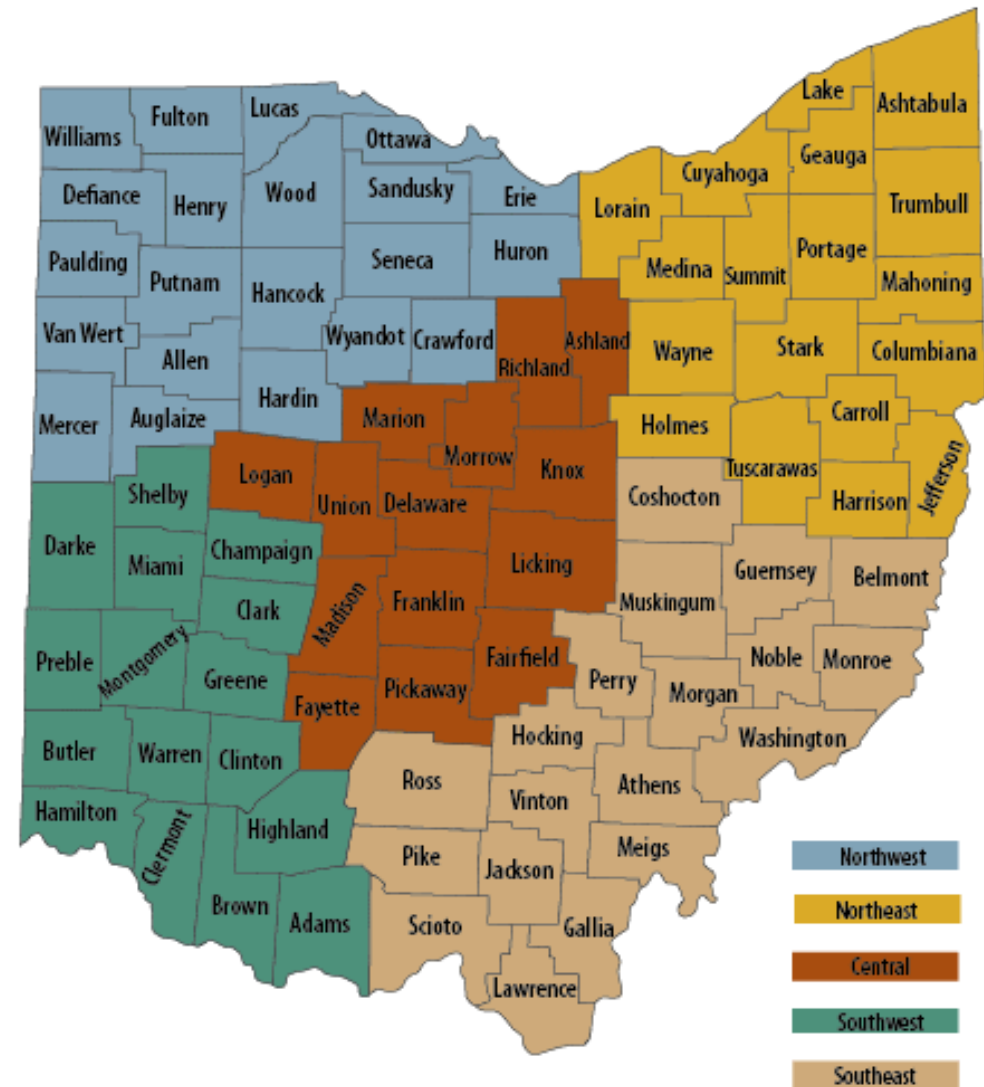


Rachel Townsend

Residential Water and Sewage Program Manager, Ohio Department of Health

Ohio

- Home rule state
- Currently, 113 local health districts



A brief timeline of onsite-sewage treatment systems in Ohio

- 1974
- 1977
- January 1, 2007
- June 30, 2007
- 2010 to 2014
- January 1, 2015

2015 Rules and O & M Tracking

- Emphasis on the need for system owner education and tracking of the system owner's operation and maintenance of systems by the local boards of health. Requirement to enroll every system (not just newly permitted) in the state.
- Local boards of health are required to work with interested stakeholders to develop a timeline and process for enrolling existing (pre-2015) systems specific to their jurisdiction.

Local Approaches to enrolling existing systems

- Adaptation of a local O & M tracking program that was in existence prior to the 2015 rules.
- Initial inventory of the system in use (type and status)
- Initial enrollment of every household not connected to sanitary sewers, initial permit condition is to either request an inventory inspection from the local health district or registered service provider.
 - Type, location, status
 - Subsequent operation permits will have terms and conditions specific to the system type

Local Approaches to enrolling existing systems

- Assessment and field verification of the system at all locations within a jurisdictional area prior to enrollment (complete inventory)

System owner education

- Local permit records for the system.
- Educational literature/manuals for that system (manufacturer's operation and maintenance manual)
- Educational materials about on-site sewage treatment systems in general
- SepticSmart





Department
of Health

WHO WE ARE
ABOUT US

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LAWS & FORMS

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DATA & STATS

FIND LOCAL
HEALTH
DISTRICTS

ODH / Know Our Programs / Sewage Treatment Systems / INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS / Information for Homeowners



Sewage Treatment
Systems

WELCOME

FORMS

INFORMATION FOR
HOMEOWNERS

INFORMATION FOR
CONTRACTORS

Information for Homeowners

July 19, 2019 | [ODH](#)

US EPA Encourages Homeowners to Maintain Septic Systems

Share this

Nearly one-fifth of American households depend on septic systems to treat their wastewater and failure to maintain a septic system can lead to backups, malfunctions and early failures that can result in costly repairs. The EPA's SepticSmart program educates homeowners about the proper system care and maintenance all year long.

[EPA SepticSmart](#) [The Do's and Don'ts of your Septic System](#); [Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems](#)

[New Homebuyer's Guide to Septic Systems](#) [Do's and Don'ts of your Advanced Treatment Unit \(ATU\)](#)

[Proper Landscaping on and around your system](#)

**New Installation, Alteration, Repair or
Replacement of a Sewage Treatment System**



Farm Science Review

September 17-19, 2019



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

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Search



SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19 2019

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

[Purchase FSR tickets here](#)

Replacing Failed Systems

- Since 2016, Ohio EPA has provided almost \$50 Million in principle forgiveness loans to Local Health Districts to administer a repair and replacement for failed household sewage treatment systems for income-eligible homeowners.
- Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level are funded at 100%
- Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level are funded at 85%
- Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level are funded 50%

Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS)

Since 2009, 92% of the counties in Ohio have participated in HSTS repair and replacement funding programs funded by Ohio EPA

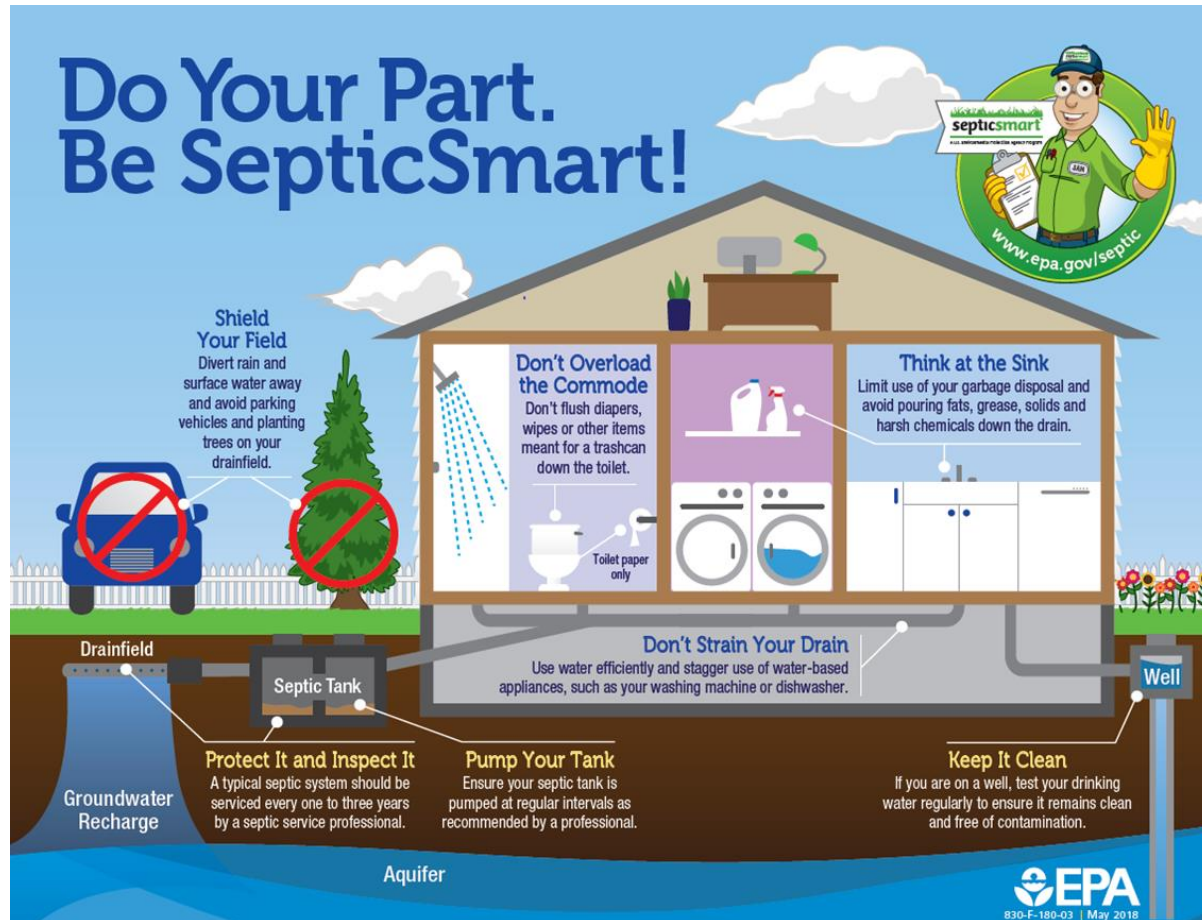


Summary of HSTS Results

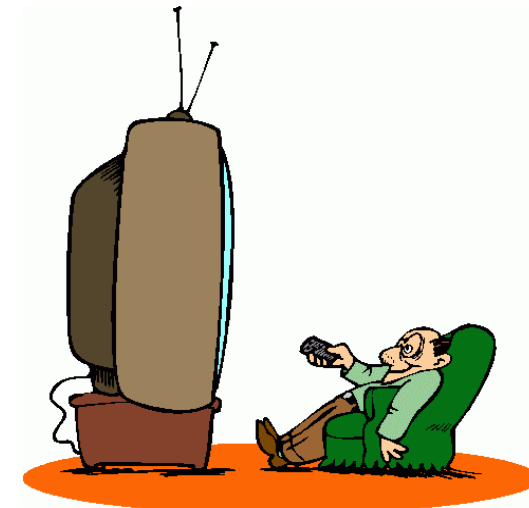
SUMMARY OF HSTS RESULTS

Funding Year	Soil Evaluations	Repairs Completed	Replacements Installed	Lateral Connections
2016	802	261	763	
2017	724	157	642	94
2018	159	14	79	28
2019				
Totals	1,685	432	1,484	122

SepticSmart Outreach



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Septic Smart and Beyond

Ray Gordon

Supervisor Residual Management
Wastewater Engineering Bureau



NHDES – Water Division



Subsurface Bureau

Decentralized/Septic Systems

Designers and Installers of Septic Systems

Design, approval and construction of Septic Systems

Wastewater Bureau

Wastewater Facilities

Wastewater Operators & Septage Haulers

Disposal of Septage from Septic Systems



New Hampshire

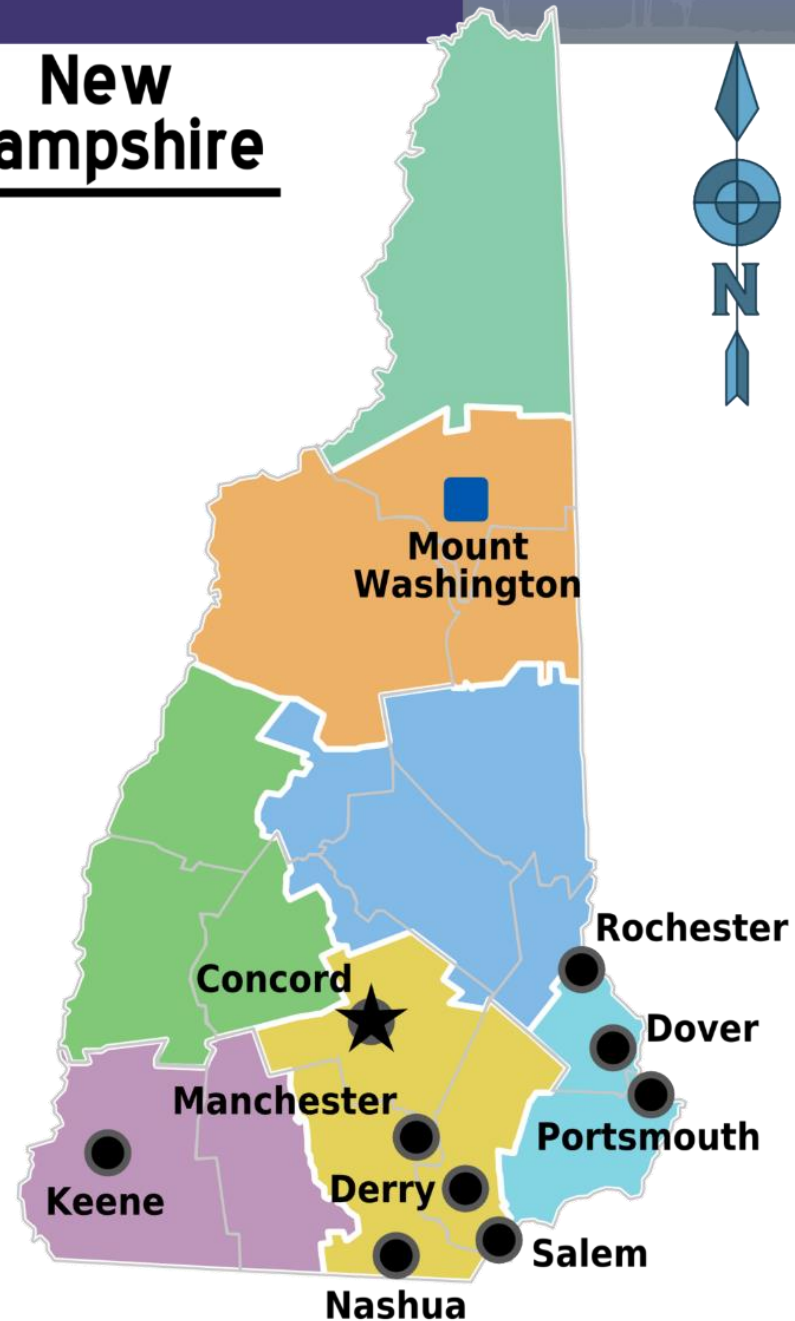
Population: 1.34 million (2017)

Area: 9,350 sq miles

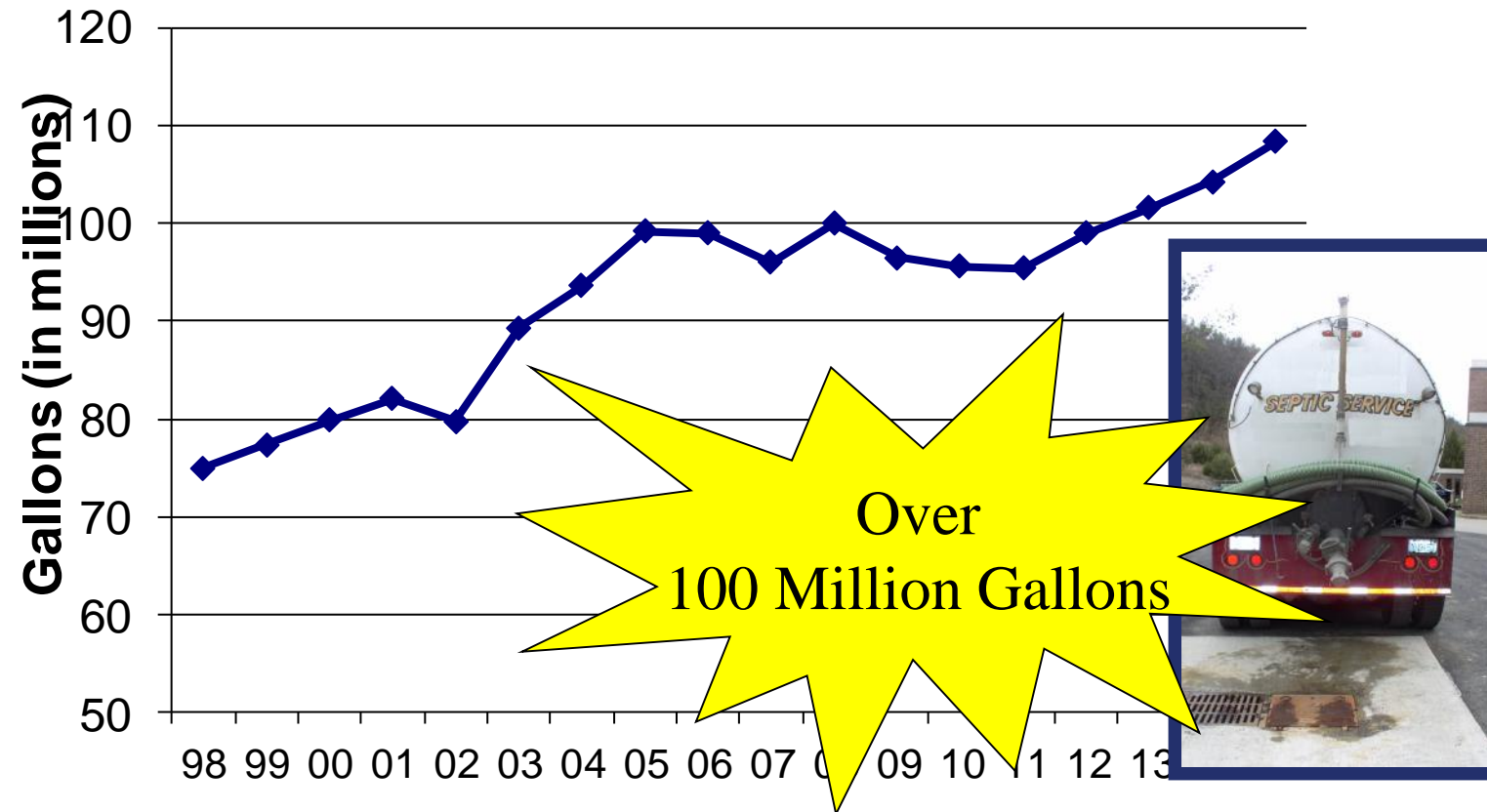
60% of Households on
Septic Systems

80% of New Construction

New Hampshire

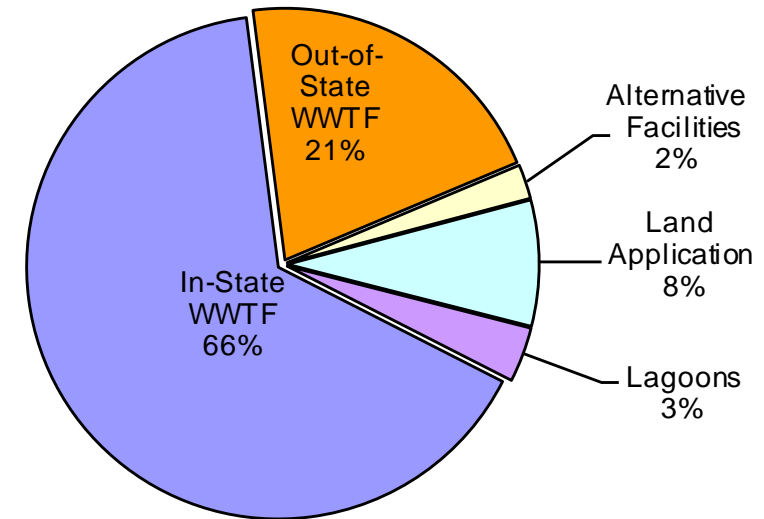


Septage Generation in NH



NH Septage Disposal

Septage Disposal 2015



Wastewater Facilities Treated 87% of the Septage

2007 Video



<https://youtu.be/BEwxciis2MA>

Clean Water Week



Poster Contest



2014 What's Flushable Program

What's
FLUSHABLE?



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental
Services

What's
FLUSHABLE?

The
DO NOT FLUSH List:

A toddler will tell you that *everything* is flushable... but what you *think* is flushable could be costing you money!

Product labels can be misleading. Some items that claim to be "flushable" can clog sewer and septic systems and can end up costing you a pretty penny.

"Flushable" does NOT mean it is SAFE for your septic system or sewer.

"Disposable" items ARE NOT flushable and should be placed in the trash.

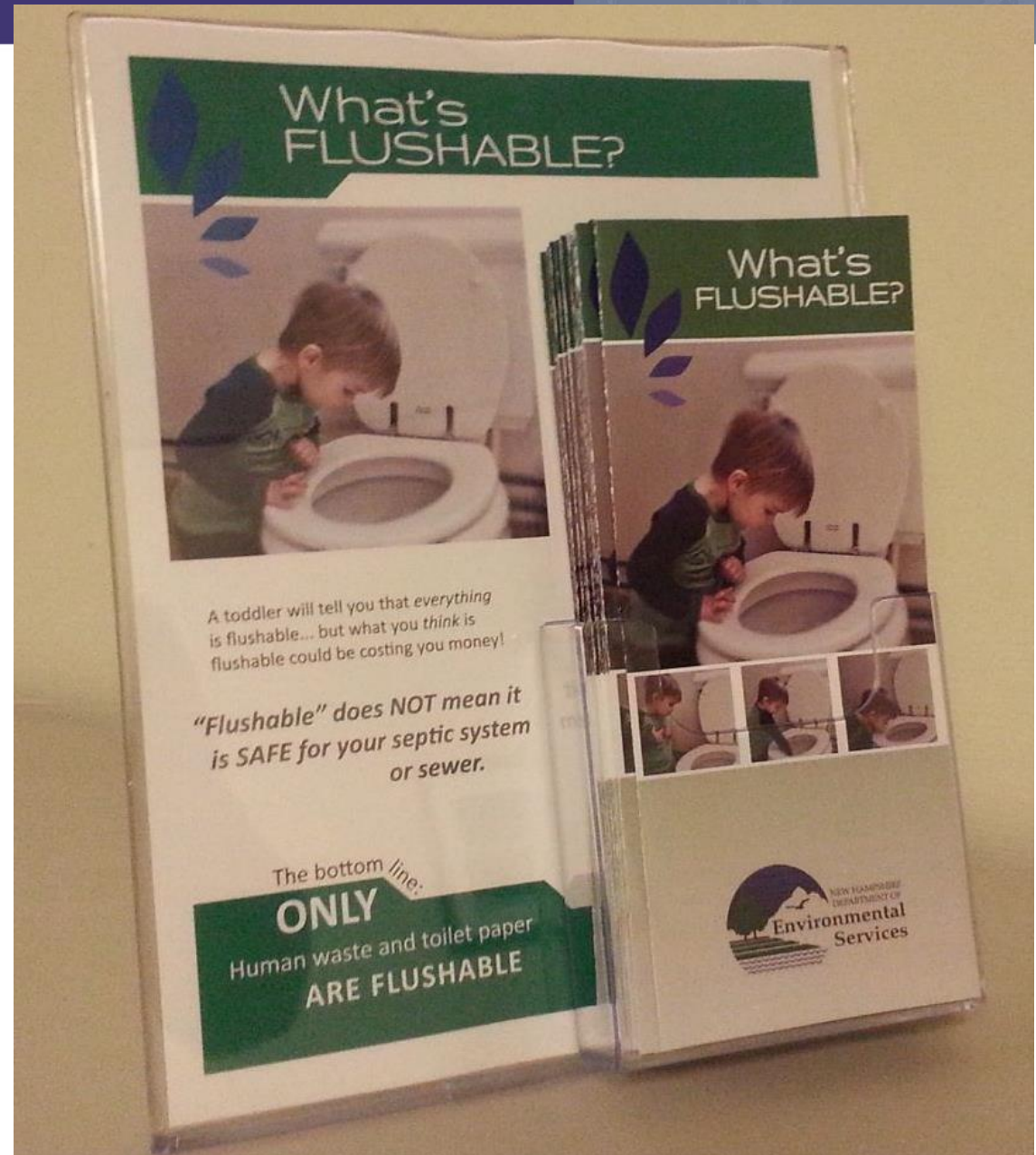
The bottom line:
ONLY
Human waste and toilet paper
ARE FLUSHABLE

Diapers
Cigarettes
Paper Towels
Cotton Swabs
Tampons

Condoms
Dental Floss
Facial Tissues
Wipes



Brochure







SepticSmart Week 2015

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 20, 2015

CONTACT: Ray Gordon, (603) 271-3571

des.nh.gov

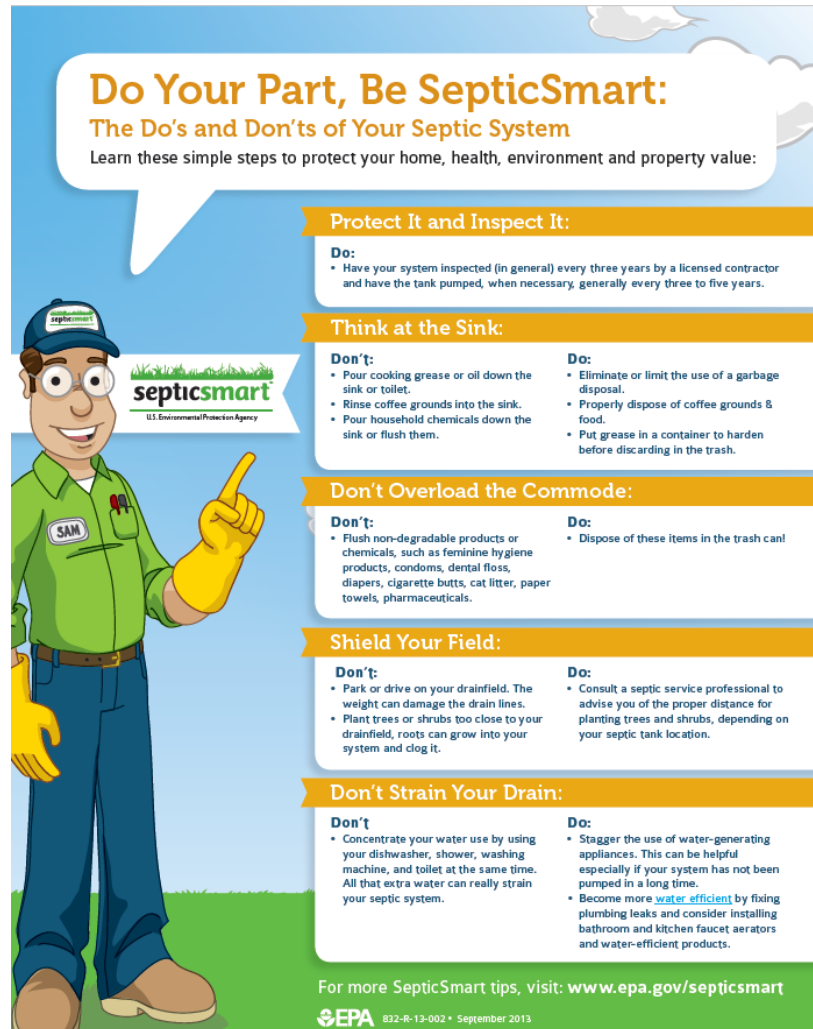
twitter.com/NHDES



NH Participates in the 3rd Annual EPA Septic Smart Week

The NH Department of Environmental Service is participating in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's third annual SepticSmart Week on Sept. 21-25. This week is designed to encourage homeowners and communities to care for and maintain their septic systems.

Lobby Display



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:
The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:

Protect It and Inspect It:

Do:

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

Think at the Sink:

Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

Don't Overload the Commode:

Don't:

- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

Do:

- Dispose of these items in the trash can!

Shield Your Field:

Don't:

- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

Do:

- Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

Don't Strain Your Drain:

Don't:

- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

Do:

- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more water efficient by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.

For more SepticSmart tips, visit: www.epa.gov/septicmart

EPA 832-R-13-002 • September 2013





What's FLUSHABLE?

Flushable will not clog your septic system. Non-flushable items can cause blockages and backups.

"Flushable" does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or environment.

ONLY Human waste and toilet paper ARE FLUSHABLE

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you flush, waste goes down the drain into the septic tank. The tank separates the waste into three layers: solids, liquid, and grease. The solids settle at the bottom and are pumped out. The liquid flows into the drain field where it is absorbed by the soil.



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:
The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value.



Protect It and Inspect It:

Do:

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.



FATS	OILS	GREASE
<p>Boils at room temperature</p> <p>Butter, shortening, margarine, Peanut butter, Meat browning, Unseasoned poultry skin, Dairy Creamers, milk, cream, sour cream, ice cream.</p>	<p>Liquid at room temperature</p> <p>Vegetable oil, Canola oil, Olive oil, Corn oil, Salad dressings, Cooking oil.</p>	<p>Turns to Solid during cooking, but softens when cooled</p> <p>Shortening, Margarine, Butter, Lard, Bacon and sausage fat, Grease, Grease, Grease.</p>



Think at the Sink:

Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Wash coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.





septicSMART

Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:

The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System
Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value.



Protect It and Inspect It:

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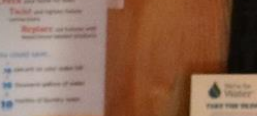
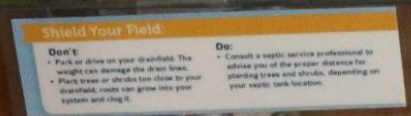


Think at the Sink:

Don't:
• Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
• Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
• Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:
• Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
• Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
• Put grease in a container to handle before discarding in the trash.





SepticSmart

- 15,000 Copies
- WWTF Operators
- Septic Haulers
- Town Halls
- Designer and Installers of Septic Systems



SepticSmart

- Legislative Breakfast
- Conferences
 - Granite State Designers and Installers
 - NH Association of Septage Haulers
 - NH Water Pollution Control Association
 - NH Municipal Association
- Training Sessions
- Available to borrow





Discover Wild NH Day – April



<https://www.pumper.com/editorial/2019/04/pumpers-promote-best-practices-at-discover-wild-new-hampshire-day>







NH Dept Env Services ✓

@NHDES

Our mission is to protect, maintain and enhance environmental quality and public health in NH. Social Media Policy: ow.ly/a1Gw30dVLAm

Concord, NH



NH Dept Env Services ✓

@NHDES

Follow



Mark your calendar for SepticSmart Week: September 17-21, 2018! We will share tips and information on the proper care and maintenance of septic systems throughout next week. Stay tuned here and follow

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR

**SepticSmart
Week 2018**

September 17-21, 2018





NH Department of Environmental Services

@NHEnvironmentalServices

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- Posts
- Photos
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- Events
- Reviews
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- Groups

Create a Page

Interaction buttons: Liked, Following, Share, ...



NH Department of Environmental Services

17 September 2018

It's Septic Smart Week, and to start it off let's discuss how your septic system works! How do you know you have a septic system? How do you find it? What goes in a septic system and what happens to it? This New Homebuyer's Guide to Septic Systems, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is a great resource for all things septic: <https://www.epa.gov/.../170803-homebuyerssepticguidebrochurel...>



Contact Us Send Message

Related Pages



U.S. EPA - New Eng...

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RCAP Solutions

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Southwest Region Pla...

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Every Drop

Like

Language options: English (UK), English (US), Español, Português (Brasil), Français (France)

Septic Sam Cutout 2018

- Two Life Size Cutout of Septic Awareness Man (SAM)
- Available for NH Stakeholders to borrow









Get Pumped NH 2019

- Sam is helping get the word out!
- Partner with NH Association of Septage Haulers
- New Web Site – GetPumpumpedNH.com
- New Brochure
- Rebate Program



GET PUMPED! NEW HAMPSHIRE

Don't wait for a failure to schedule a septic system pumpout

[Home](#)[Down the drain...](#)[Protecting your...](#)[The bottom line...](#)[What can you do?](#)[Call and save...](#)

Looking Back

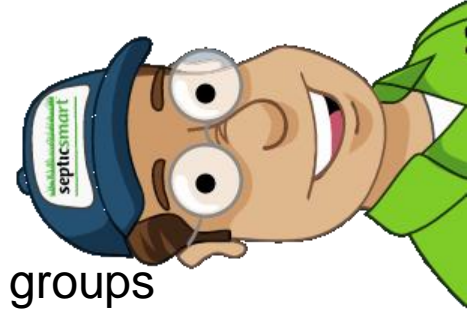
Lessons Learned

- Teachers Don't like Condoms On Our Brochure
- \$10 Rebate? – Not Enough
- No Matter What you do – Everyone has an opinion
- Durability Matters

Preview it, review it again and let more people

Advice

- Provide material for various age groups
- Keep Mixing things up
- Keep it fresh
- Have something new each year
- Once you have a toolbox – You can reuse it
- Stakeholders will borrow education material and will deliver your message



Where do we go from here?

Improve our FOG Education Program

Continue Using Existing Tool Box

Continue Expanding Tool Box

More promotion with stakeholders

Promote Successes and Secure Budgets

Look for Educational Partnerships





Contact Information

Ray Gordon, Administrator
Residual Management Section
NHDES, Wastewater Engineering Bureau
(603) 271-3571 – Ray.Gordon@des.nh.gov



Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS

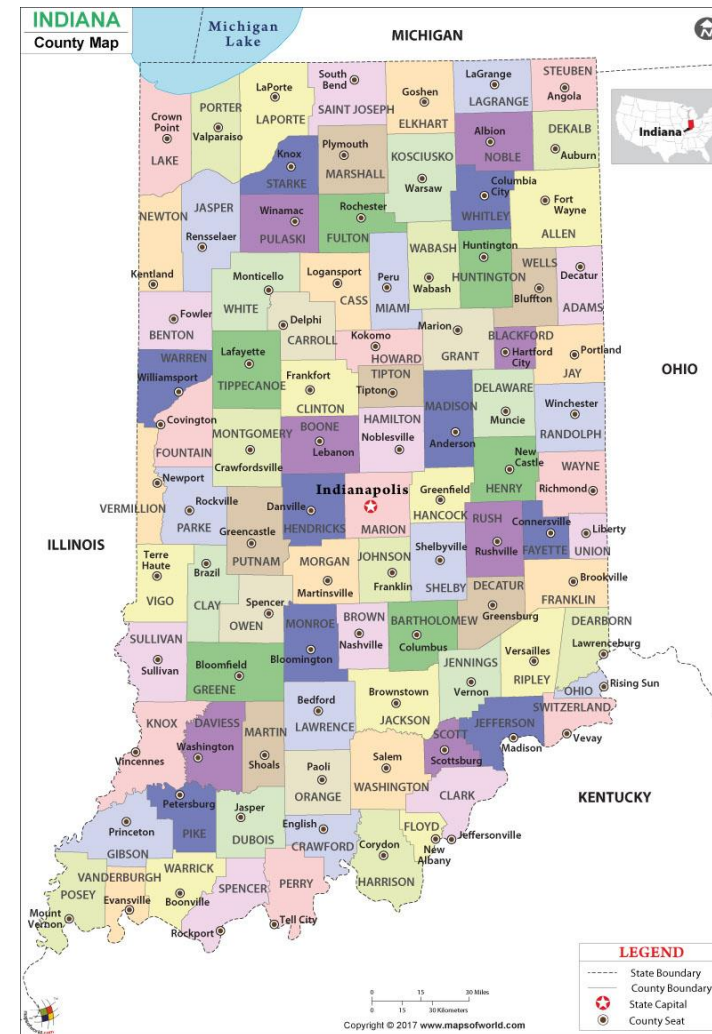
Environmental Health and Food Supervisor, La Porte County Health
Department, Indiana

La Porte County

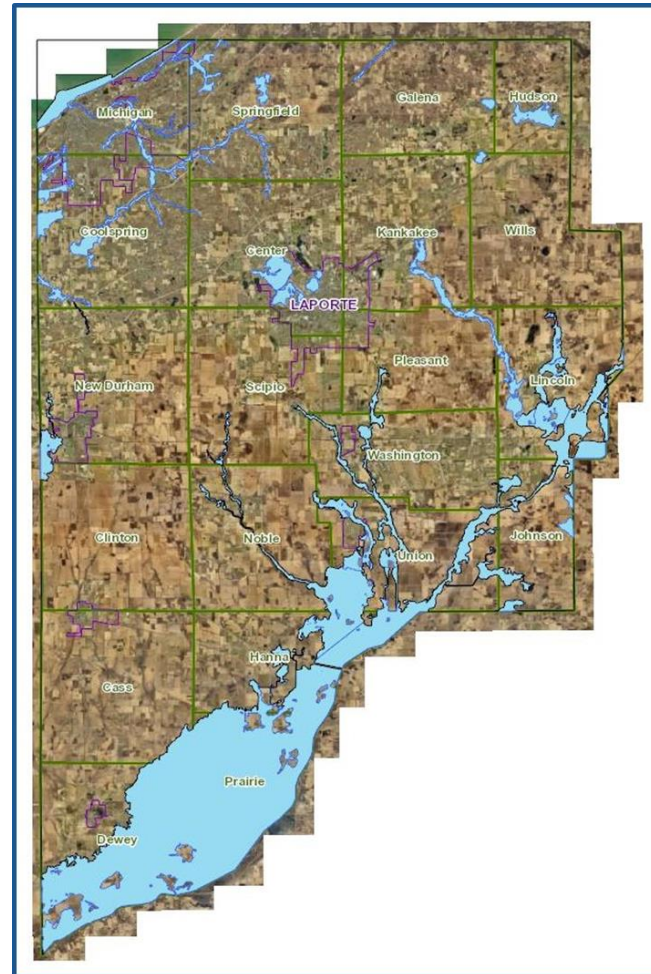
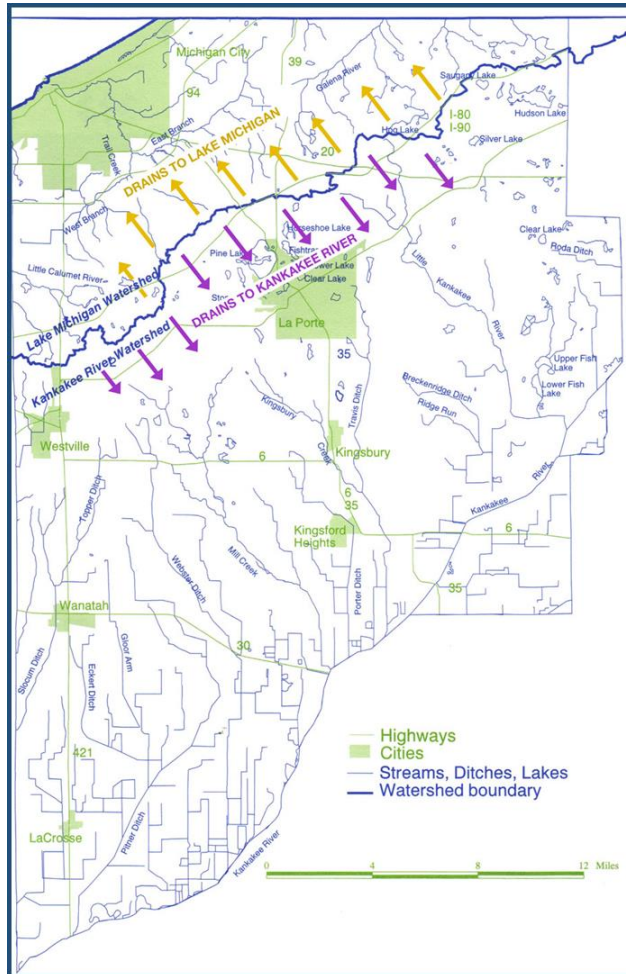
613 sq. Miles

Population: 111,000

Approximately 23,000 onsite
septic systems for residential
housing units =47% of homes is
the county.



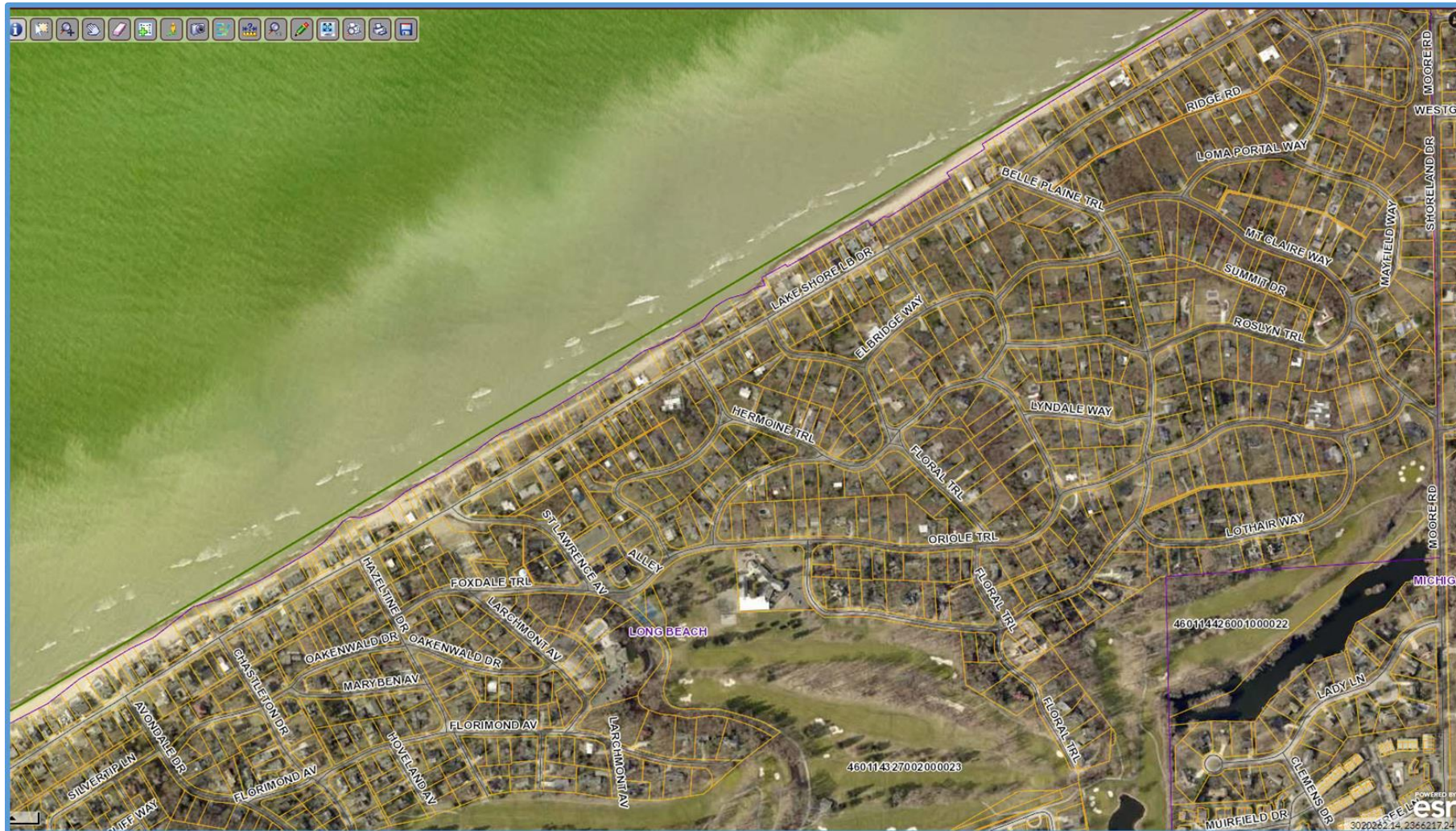
La Porte Maps

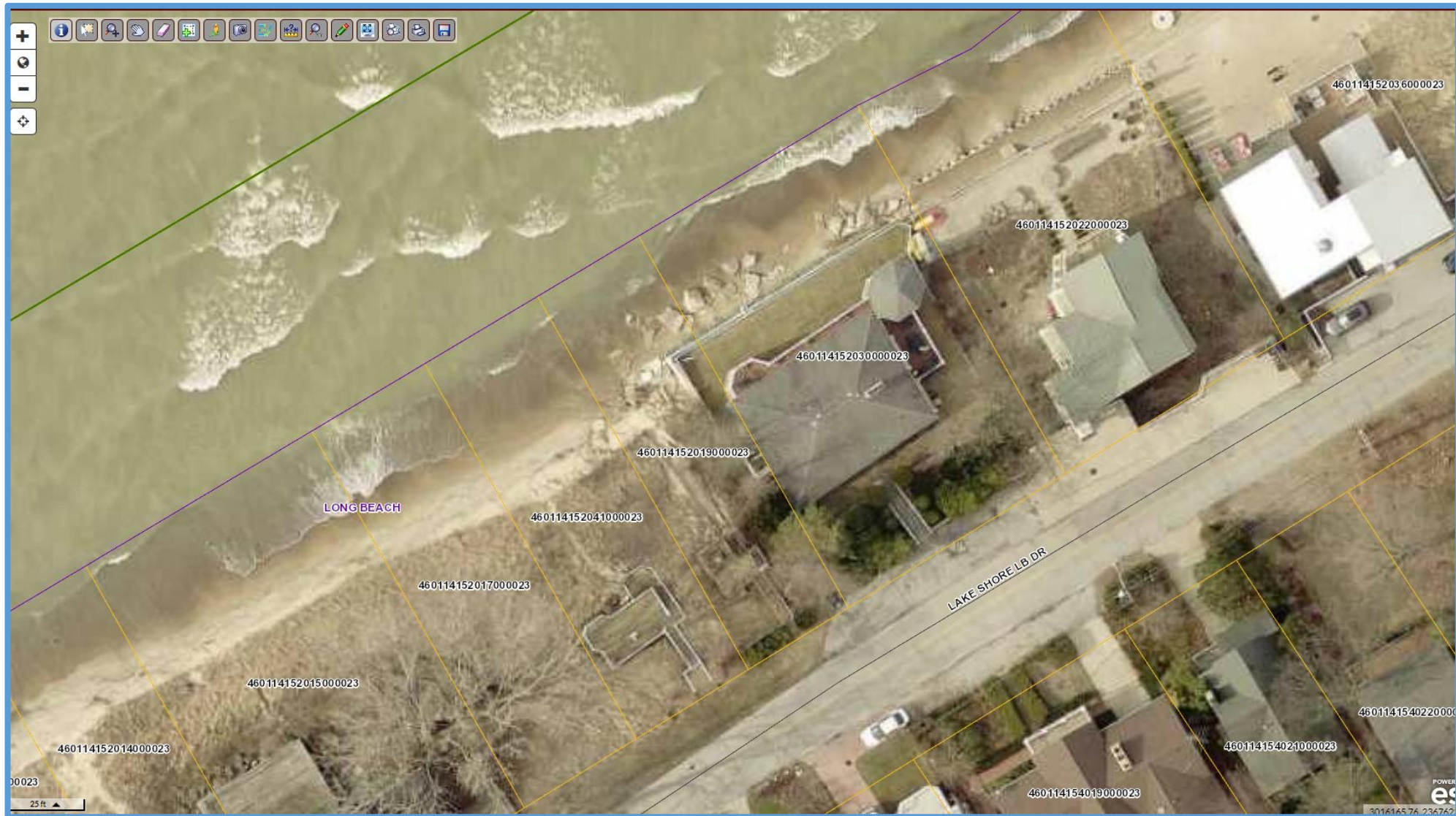




Mount Baldy, Indiana Dunes National Park
La Porte County, IN

La Porte Beachfront

















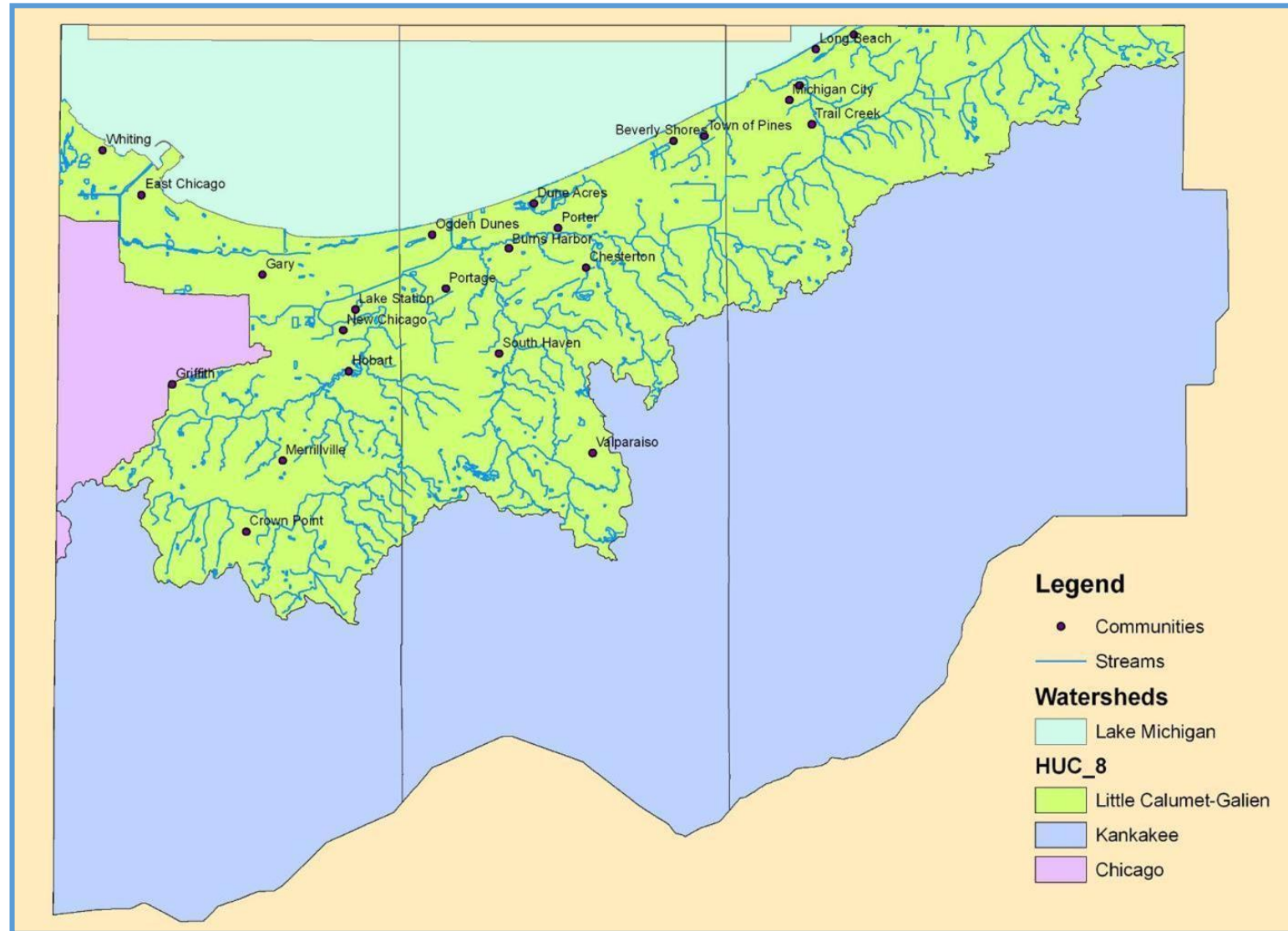






Lake Michigan Watershed

Many Lake Michigan watershed and shoreline communities rely wholly or partially on septic systems for their wastewater treatment needs. Watershed plans for the Coastal tributaries identify septic systems as a likely source of e-coli pollution to the waterways.



The Northwest Indiana Septic System Coordination Work Group

The NW Indiana SSC Work Group comprised of federal, state, and local governments/ agencies, not-for-profit groups, universities and interested individuals has been meeting since early 2013 to develop collaborative plans and implementation strategies to address the potential impacts of failing septic systems on local water quality and public health. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

IDEM

USEPA

Indiana State Dept. of Health

County Health Depts.

NIRPC

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Coastal MS4s

Coastal SWCDs

Save the Dunes

Sea Grant

Coastal Communities

Septic System Owners

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Purdue University NW (Calumet Campus)

The Indiana DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program provides staffing and coordination assistance for the Work Group as part of the Indiana Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

Why Now?

- Operating Permits-2013
- Installers required to be IOWPA certified and bonded-2014
- Water Well Ordinance-2015
- IOWPA Certified Inspector Course

Section 6 Onsite System Components - Distribution and Soil Absorption Field (cont'd)

Yes	No	CND
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Distribution Box(es) (if more than 1, record for all boxes)		
1 Is there a distribution box installed in the system?		
If yes, how many? _____		
Distribution Box Material _____ Concrete _____ Other (specify) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 Is there a riser extended to the ground surface for all distribution boxes?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Is there a baffle, 90° elbow or sanitary tee in place on the inlet?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 If there is an elbow in the distribution box, is there a weep hole on the top of the elbow?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 Is the flow equally distributed to all outlets of the box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Are there flow equalization devices installed on the outlets of the box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Is the effluent level in the distribution box appropriate (at the invert of the outlets)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Is the effluent level in the distribution box below the invert of the outlets? If yes, select reason		
_____ D-box has been pumped recently _____ Home has been vacant for a long period		
_____ D-box is not watertight _____ Other _____		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 Is the level of the effluent in the distribution box above the invert of the outlet pipes?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 Is there evidence of previous high water event in the distribution box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 Are there solids in the distribution box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12 Does the distribution box appear to be watertight?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Is there evidence of corrosion or concrete deterioration in the distribution box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14 Is there evidence of cracking or warping of the distribution box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15 Is the distribution box lid cracked, broken, missing or otherwise need replaced?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 Is there evidence of water infiltration into the distribution box?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Soil Absorption Field - General (complete for all soil absorption field types)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 Is there a soil absorption field present?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 Does all effluent discharge to the soil absorption field?		
If no, what is the means of effluent discharge?		
_____ Tank to tile _____ Discharging sand filter _____ Gray water discharge		
_____ ATU to tile _____ Other, describe _____		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Does the soil absorption field discharge effluent?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 Are there spongy or saturated areas within the soil absorption field?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 Are there any areas of lush vegetation within the soil absorption field?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Are there any indications of a previous failure of the soil absorption field?		
If yes, describe _____		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Is there vegetative cover over the soil absorption field?		
_____ Grass _____ Weeds _____ Trees _____ Other _____		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Is there a minimum of 12" of soil cover over the soil absorption field?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 Is the soil cover appropriately crowned to promote surface water runoff from the SAF?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 Does surface water, roof drains or sump pump discharge drain onto the SAF area?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 Are there observation wells/ports installed in the soil absorption field?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, is water observed in the observation well(s)/port(s)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12 Is the water level inappropriately high in the observation well(s)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Are the caps on the observation wells cracked, broken or missing?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14 Have there been any modifications in the soil absorption field due to landscaping?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Soil Absorption Field - Subsurface Trenches		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 Is the number of trenches installed the same as indicated on the installation plan?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 Is the length of the installed trenches the same as indicated on the installation plan?		
If no to either question, explain _____		

Section 6b Notes

D-Box seems to be located
on the edge of the driveway
we were unable to locate
do to the landscape and amount
of buried brick and broken
concrete and clay tile

Section 6c Notes

Dry wells appear to be under
the asphalt driveway

Section 6d Notes

D-Box seems to be located
on the edge of the driveway
we were unable to locate
do to the landscape and amount
of buried brick and broken
concrete and clay tile

What is a Property Transfer?

Property Transfer: The conveyance of an interest in a property by any of the following:

- A deed or other instrument of conveyance of fee title to property
- A lease whose term, if all options were exercised, would be more than 40 years
- A collateral assignment of a beneficial interest in a land trust
- An installment contract for the sale of a property

The Ordinance

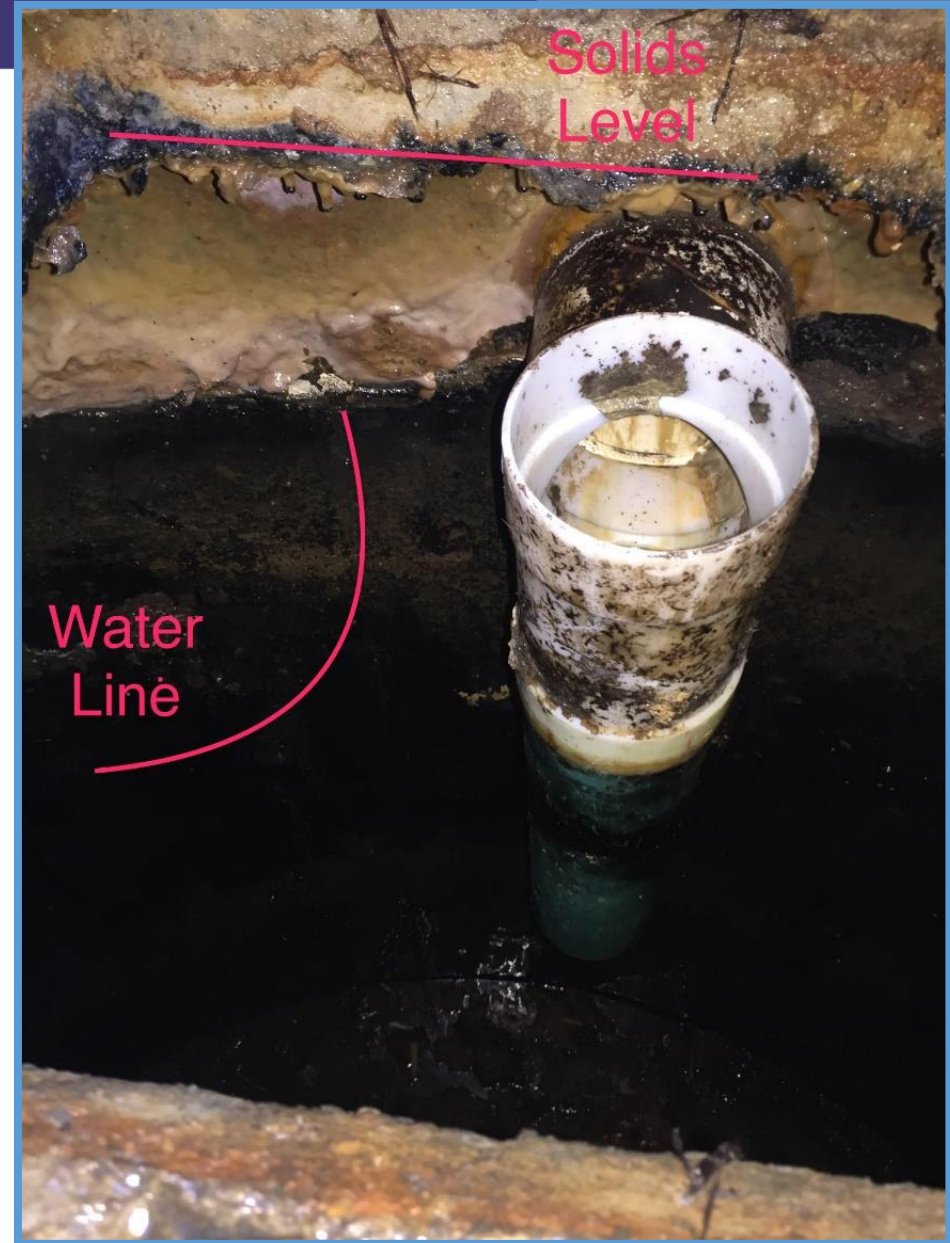
- Requires all septic systems, both residential and commercial, to be inspected prior to the transfer of the property by an IOWPA certified inspector
- Requires all drinking water wells, both residential and commercial, to be tested for coliform bacteria and have a certified nitrate test.

WHY?

- Inform prospective buyers
- Drinking Water Quality
- Status of On-site Sewage System
- Find undocumented/non-systems
- Find failed/failing systems









LA PORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

809 STATE ST. SUITE 401 A, LA PORTE, IN 46350

PHONE: 219-326-6808 FAX: 219-325-8628

Application for Waiver of Property Transfer Inspections and Tests

La Porte County Ordinance #2016-02 requires the inspection of septic systems and testing of drinking water wells any time a property is sold. The purpose of this requirements is to protect public health and to ensure that the condition of the property is properly disclosed to the buyer prior to closing. These inspections and test reduce the likelihood that a buyer will encounter large and unexpected costs soon after they purchase a property. A new septic system may cost \$5000-\$15000 or more, water well supply \$4000 or more, and a drinking water treatment system \$500.

This application must be completed by the buyer.

Address of property being sold: _____

Reason for waiver request: Bank owned property: _____ HUD owned property: _____ Quit Claim: _____

Trust Transfer: _____ Tax/Sheriff Sale: _____ Formation of Revocable Trust: _____

New Construction less than 1 year old and never occupied: _____ Other: _____

Certification and Agreement

_____ I certify that the reason for the waiver request listed above is accurate.

_____ I hereby waive my right to receive a septic inspection prior to closing. I agree to indemnify the Health Department from any and all liability or responsibility for any defect in or failure of the septic system. . **I further agree to submit a septic inspection to the Health Department within 45 days after closing** for bank owned, HUD, and tax/sheriff properties.

_____ I hereby waive my right to receive drinking water tests prior to closing. I agree to indemnify the Health Department from any and all liability or responsibility for any defect in or failure of the drinking water system or water quality. **I further agree to submit a drinking water test to the Health Department for coliform and nitrate within 45 days after closing** for bank owned, HUD, and tax/sheriff properties.

_____/_____ Phone: _____

Printed Name of Buyer(s)

_____/_____ Date: _____

Signature of Buyer(s)

Application: Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Comments: _____

Administrator: _____ Date: _____

This variance is not valid unless approved by the Health Department. This variance must be submitted to the Health Department prior to closing.

These inspections and test reduce the likelihood that a buyer will encounter large and unexpected costs soon after they purchase a property. A new septic system may cost \$5000-\$15000 or more, water well supply \$4000 or more, and a drinking water treatment system \$500.

I further agree to submit a septic inspection to the Health Department within 45 days after closing for bank owned, HUD, and tax/sheriff properties. (Also for water well)

Outreach

- Initial outreach to the realty association
 - LPCAR
- Ordinance Committee
- Individual Realty Agencies
- Title companies
- Conferences, meetings



Proclamation



Proclamation

WHEREAS, proper septic system use and routine care are vital to protecting public health, preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams and waterways, and avoiding costly repairs that can result from neglect; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50% of septic systems in La Porte County treat wastewater from homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, wastewater professionals of La Porte County use their expertise in the design, installation, maintenance and regulation of septic systems in La Porte County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's SepticSmart program used by LA Porte County health officials does educate homeowners about the need for proper septic system use and routine maintenance; and

WHEREAS, residents and the environment of La Porte County benefit from properly designed, installed, operated, and maintained septic systems;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Sandra Deausy, Health Officer of La Porte County, do hereby proclaim the week of September 16-20, 2019 as

SepticSmart Week

in La Porte County, IN, and I urge all people to join me in this special observance.

Signed this September 10, 2019,

S Deausy MD





Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS
Environmental Health/Food Supervisor
La Porte County Health Department
alahners@laportecounty.org
219-325-5563

Decentralized Wastewater Webcast Series

Questions?

Zach Lowenstein, lowenstein.zachary@epa.gov

EPA's Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership

