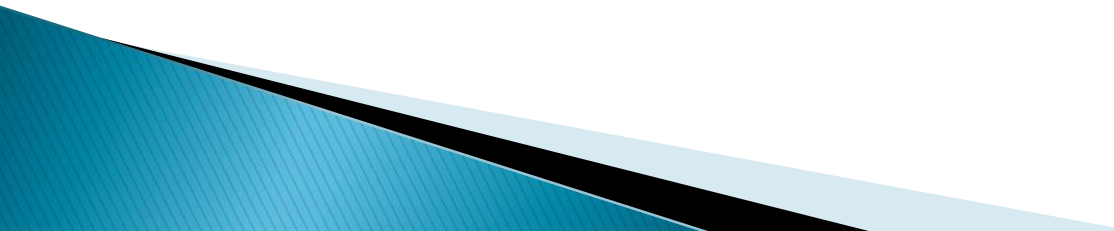


Blue Lake Preservation Association

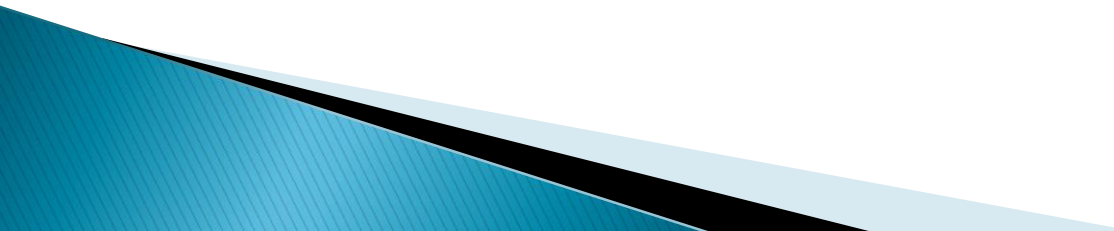
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What Makes a Healthy, Happy Septic System!

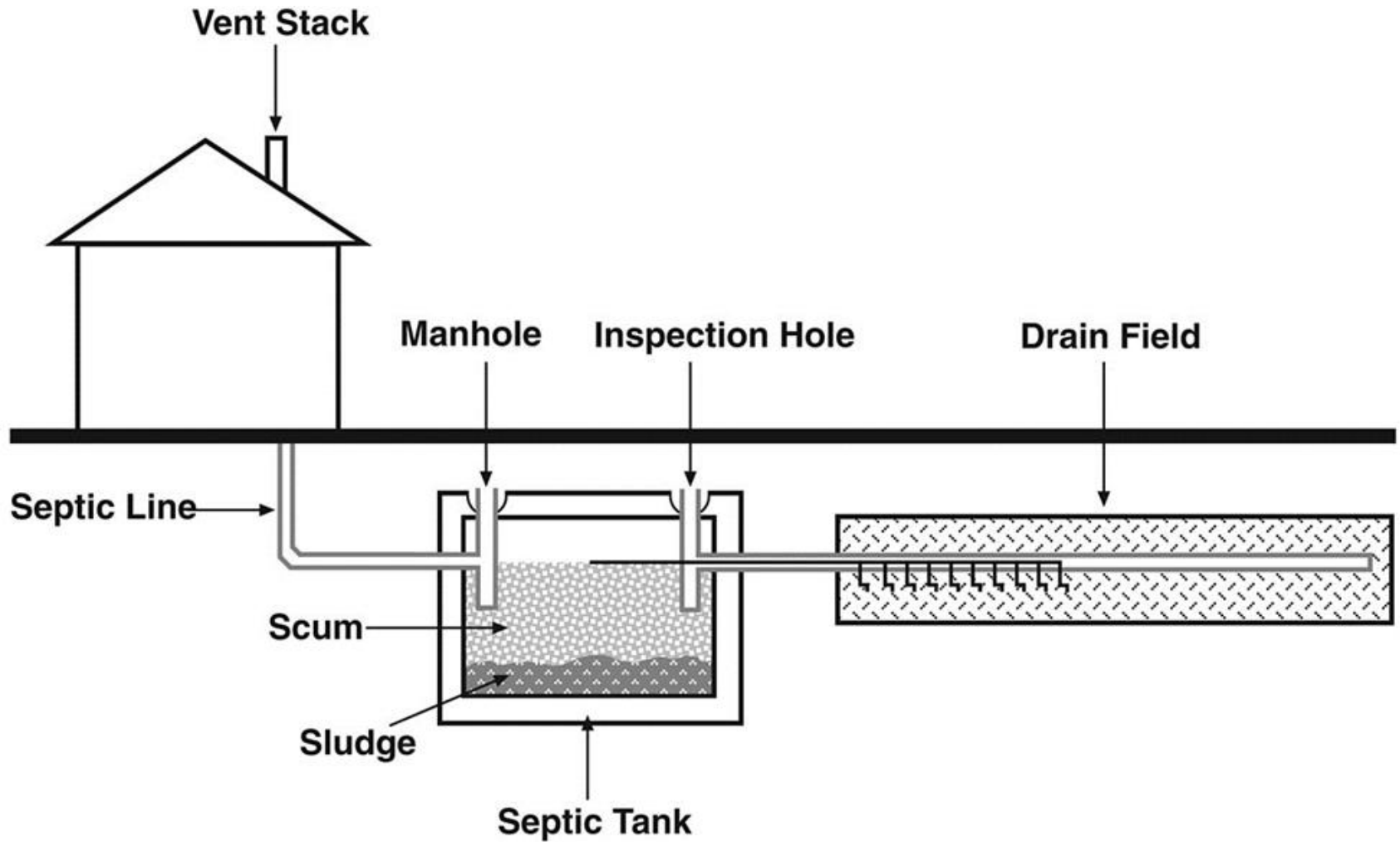
Content

- ▶ What is a Septic System
 - ▶ How a Septic System works
 - ▶ Maintenance
 - ▶ Do's and Don'ts
 - ▶ Warning Signs
 - ▶ Septic Service Providers
- 

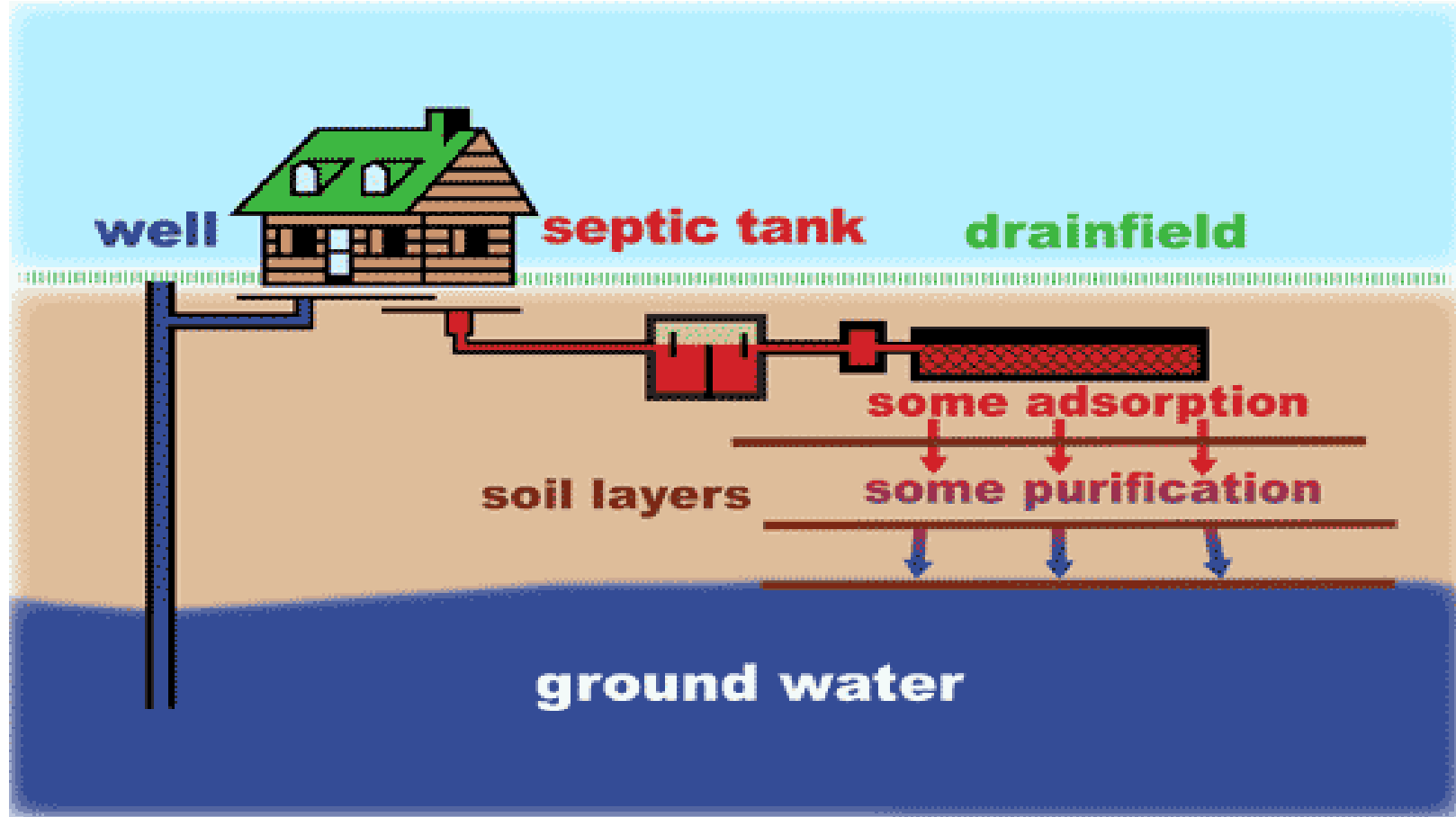
What is a Septic System

- ▶ Straight to the point, your septic system is a small-scale sewage treatment system
 - ▶ 25% of North America rely on septic system
 - ▶ Septic refers to anaerobic bacterial environment that develops in the holding tank which decomposes the waste
 - ▶ A properly maintained system should not need to be replaced in a home owners lifetime.
- 

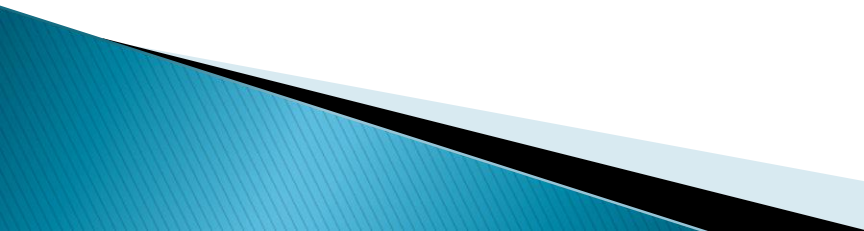
Septic System



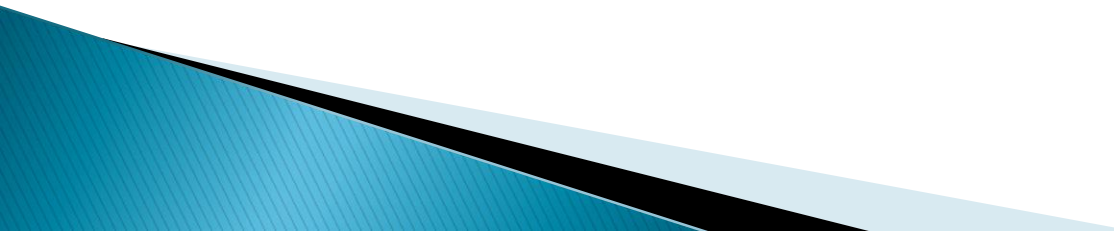
Waste Water flow to Water Table



How does a Septic System Work?

- ▶ Wastewater enters the tank, allowing solids to settle and scum to float
 - ▶ Anaerobic bacteria digests solids to reduce the volumes
 - ▶ Liquid flows into second chamber, where further settling takes place
 - ▶ Excess liquid (by now in clear condition) drains into the drain field
 - ▶ Remaining impurities are trapped and eliminated in soil
- 

Septic System Maintenance

- ▶ Wisconsin Administrative code Comm 83.55 requires the system is pumped within 3 years of installation and at least once every 3 years unless during the inspection process, the tank is less than 1 / 3 of the volume occupied is sludge and scum
 - ▶ Wisconsin requires that a certified septage servicing operator to legally pump the septic tank
- 

Septic System Maintenance (continue)

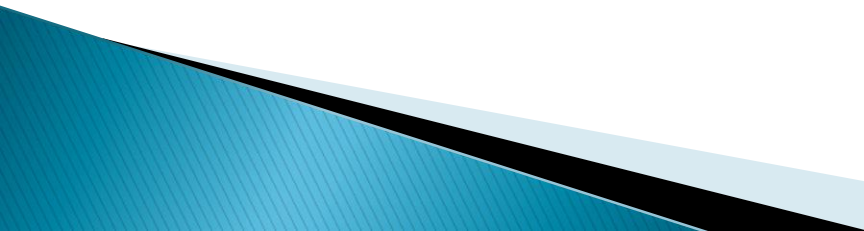
- ▶ During pumping / inspection process, the operator will:
 - Inspect the tank first to determine service required
 - Pump wastewater through the manhole. Inspection pipe is too small to see if tank is sufficient empty
 - Loosen and strip up material materials by pumping, back flushing and repumping
 - Check that the baffles and “T” /filters are in place and working. These are vital to prevent drainfield from clogging
 - Dig test holes to check for signs of standing water or biomat. They will also check the color of the rocks and sand.

Do's and Don'ts

▶ Don'ts


- Drain excessive amounts of grease or cooking oils
- Use the toilet for disposal of food
- Flush non-biodegradable waste items such as cigarette butts, cotton swabs, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels or kleenex
- Use septic chemical additives – Chemical may ultimately damage the bacteria and system. They may cause more harm than good
- Flush salt water – Sodium can bind in the drainfield causing clay and salt to bind particles. Effectively waterproofing the drain field and render it useless
- Place playground equipment or storage equipment in this area

Do's and Don'ts (continue)

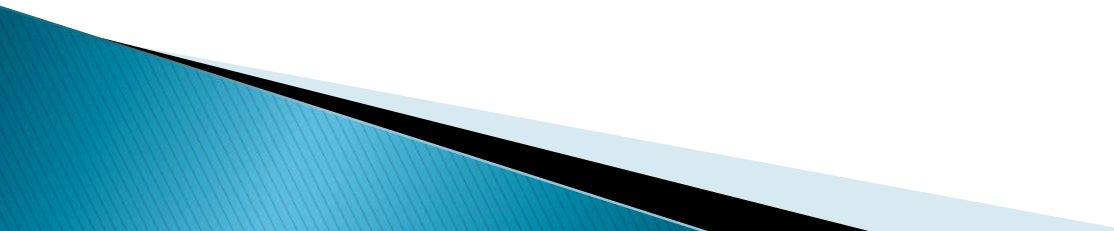
- Dump medicine down the drain
 - Over use cleaning products that include bleach and drain cleaners
 - Use automatic toilet cleaning dispensers that release bleach with every flush
 - Install a garbage disposal
 - Drive or park ATVs, snowmobiles, tractors or cars over the system
 - Put harsh chemicals like paint thinner down drain
 - Pave or cement over the drain field
 - Never place a fire pit near the septic system
- ▶ **Do's**
- Have the system inspected regularly
 - Limit kitchen waste, grease and food going down drain
 - Repair leaky faucets and toilets
 - Install water saving devices such as low flow shower heads and toilets
- 

Do's and Don'ts (continue)

▶ Do's

- Septic safe toilet tissue – fast breaking down tissue
 - Make sure that the washing machine and dishwasher have full loads
 - Use liquid detergents. Powder detergents have fillers that add to the scum layer
 - Install water saving devices such as low flow shower heads and toilets
 - 1 or 2 loads of laundry per day rather than 3 or more on one day
 - Turn the water off while brushing your teeth
 - Install lint trap on washing machine and change regularly
 - Allow grass to grow longer before winter to help insulate system
 - Keep detailed records of repairs, pumping and maintenance activities
- 

Warning Signs

- ▶ Slow Draining toilets, tubs or sinks
 - ▶ Gurgling sound when draining
 - ▶ Wet areas near the drainfield
 - ▶ Excessive vegetative growth in area of drain field
 - ▶ Algal blooms or excessive weed growth near shoreline
 - ▶ Foul odor around the house
- 

Septic Service Providers

A-1 Septic Systems
1-715-358-2191

Arbor Vitae Septic Systems
1-715-356-4338

Brian Grundy Septic Systems
1-715-356-2258

Burnett Plumbing and
Heating
1-715-356-3112

LaFrenier Sons, Inc
1-715-356-3020

JW Dallman Septic
1-715-358-6624

Richardson Septic Services
1-715-358-2496

Trapp Septic and Excavating
1-715-356-2040