



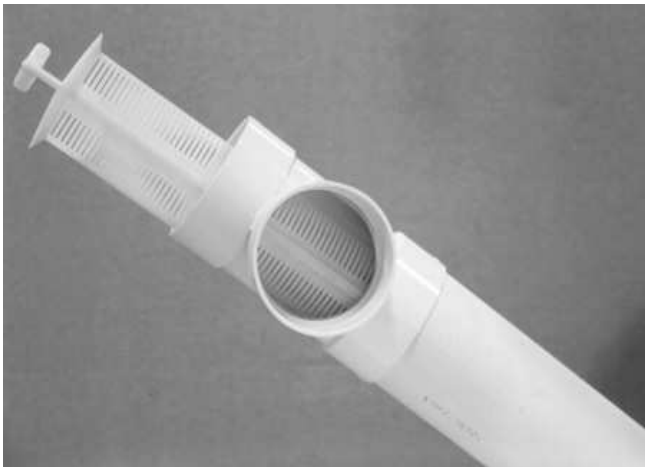
TOWN OF AVON BOARD OF HEALTH

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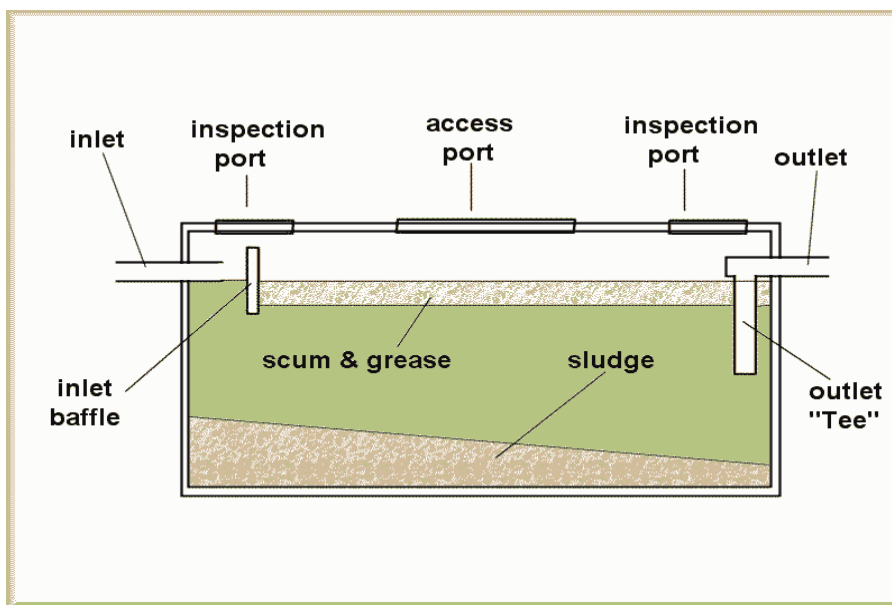
Septic Tank Effluent Tee Maintenance

Effluent tee filters are approved for installation at the outlet of the septic tank in lieu of an outlet tee. When installed on a septic tank, an appropriate outlet cover must be installed and maintained at grade and the filter must be inspected and cleaned regularly but at least on an annual basis. Consult a pumper (that knows your system) as far as their recommended interval for checking/cleaning. Failure to do so may result in a back up.

Effluent Outlet Tee & Filter (louvered insert)



Same (in place) as viewed from riser to surface

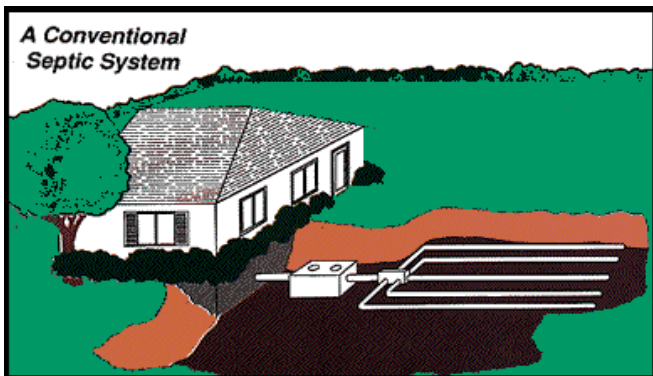


Profile of septic tank (note outlet tee and inspection port access cover from above).

Proper Care and Maintenance of Your Septic System

Septic systems are individual wastewater treatment systems (conventional septic systems, innovative/alternative (I/A) systems, or cesspools) that use the soil to treat small wastewater flows, usually from individual homes. They are typically used in rural or large lot settings where centralized wastewater treatment is impractical.

There are many types of septic systems in use today. While all systems are individually designed for each site, most systems are based on the same principles.



A conventional septic system consists of a septic tank, sometimes a pump chamber/tank, a distribution box, and a drain field, all connected by pipes, called conveyance lines.

Your septic system treats your household wastewater by temporarily holding it in the septic tank where heavy solids and lighter scum are allowed to separate from the wastewater. This separation process is known as primary treatment. The solids stored in the tank are decomposed by bacteria and later removed, along with the lighter scum, by a professional septic tank pumper.

After partially treated wastewater leaves the tank, it flows into a distribution box, which separates this flow evenly into a network of drain field trenches. Drainage holes at the bottom of each line allow the wastewater to drain into gravel trenches for temporary storage. This effluent then slowly seeps into the subsurface soil where it is further treated and purified (secondary treatment). A properly functioning septic system does not pollute the groundwater.

Regular Maintenance is the single most important consideration in making sure your septic system, whether it is a conventional septic system, an innovative/alternative (I/A) system, or a cesspool, works well over time.

An amazing number of system owners believe that if they haven't had any problems with their systems, they don't need to pump out their tanks. Unfortunately this is a serious and sometimes costly misconception. As your system is used, solid materials settle to the bottom of the tank, forming a **sludge layer**. Grease and lightweight materials float to the surface of the septic tank as **scum**.

Normally, properly designed tanks have enough space for up to 3 to 5 years' safe accumulation of sludge. When the sludge level increases beyond this point, sewage has less time to settle properly before leaving the tank. As the sludge level increases, more solid wastes escape into the soil absorption system (SAS). If the SAS becomes so clogged that it cannot absorb liquid at the rate at which it enters the tank, the plumbing will "back up" or unsanitary wastewater will bubble to the surface.

Remember: Regular pumping helps prevent solids from escaping into the drain field, clogging soil pores. While pumping frequency is a function of use, MassDEP recommends that systems be pumped at least every 3 years for homes not having a garbage disposal. If the home's system has a garbage disposal, it should be pumped every year.

When hiring a pumper, be sure the local Board of Health has licensed them, and always make sure you get a paid receipt that spells out the transactions details (how many gallons were pumped out of the tank, the date, the charges, and any other pertinent results). The pumper is required to send a copy of this report to the local Board of Health.