

Septic Systems and Drinking Water

A **septic system** is a private underground wastewater treatment structure, used when there is no connection to a centralized municipal sewage treatment facility. They are often found in more rural areas but may be located in some urban areas.

Did you know?

A well maintained septic system is not only important for reducing the need for costly repairs but also for reducing impacts on the environment.

A system that has not been properly maintained poses a higher risk to a private drinking water well on your property or nearby municipal drinking water sources.



Septic Re-Inspection Program

- Septic systems are considered a drinking water threat under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* as a system that collects sewage. They are managed through the Septic Re-Inspection Program.
- Public Health Sudbury and Districts is the Principal Authority that delivers the Septic Re-Inspection Program.
- The program requires septic systems located near municipal wells or intakes that could pose a risk to municipal drinking water sources be inspected on a regular basis.
- The inspections ensure that systems are operating in accordance with the *Ontario Building Code*.
- Within the Sudbury Source Protection Area 224 septic systems are inspected on a five year basis.

Other Policies

Education & Outreach: The City of Greater Sudbury delivers a program to residents where septic systems could pose a threat to municipal drinking water. The program educates landowners on the importance of properly maintained septic systems and the potential impact on drinking water.

Land Use Planning: Lot severances that require the construction of new septic systems in areas in close proximity to municipal wells or intakes are prohibited.

