

Septic Re-Inspection Program

The Town of Gravenhurst septic re-inspection program takes place on waterfront properties and aims to help keep lakes and ground water free from pollution. Gravenhurst staff work with property owners to provide information and increase awareness about their sewage disposal systems.

The program runs through the summer months of each year and has shown to be an effective method of determining potential harmful systems. Each year a summer student is hired to complete visual inspections for existing septic systems.

Certain lakes are selected each summer to ensure that there are no repeated properties from previous years. This cycle continues until all applicable properties have been inspected, to which the cycle then starts over.



Municipal Information

For more information, please contact the municipal office or visit our website:

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Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3

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A Guide to Maintaining your Septic System

Protecting your Investment and the
Environment

As per the Town of Gravenhurst and the
Ontario Building Code

How to Recognize a Failing System

Some of the most common signs of a failing septic system can be found below. If you are experiencing any of these problems it is strongly suggested that it is inspected by a qualified septic installer:

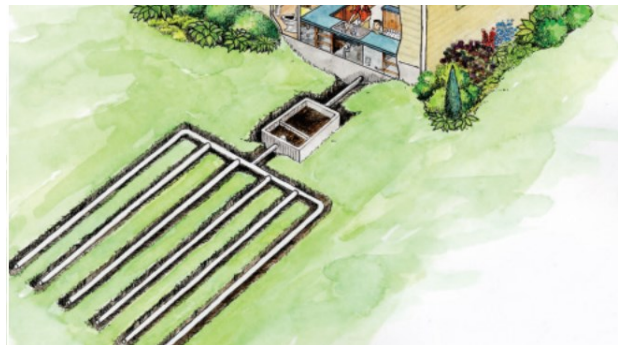
- Slow or backed up drains
- Wet spots on or near the leaching bed area
- Effluent discharge on the ground or near the leaching bed
- Sewage odour in the basement or outside
- Poor well water or surface water quality

If a qualified person inspects the septic system and discovers a problem, a permit shall be applied for through the Town of Gravenhurst Building Department outlining the extent of the repair or solution.

Maintaining your Septic System

Below are some tips to help ensure your septic system is maintained responsibly:

- Know the location, setbacks and class of your septic system
- Ensure excess vegetation and trees do not grow on the tank and leaching bed area (No deep rooted vegetation permitted)
- Recommend having the tank pumped every 3-5 years depending on how often the system is used
- Ensure erosion does not occur on the sides of raised beds
- **Avoid** excessive weight and burning on top of the tank and leaching bed
- Ensure the tank lids are in place and securely fastened
- Avoid diverting storm water towards the septic system



Safe Operation of a Septic System



Below is a list of helpful information in means of responsibly operating your septic system:

- Avoid parking or driving over any part of the system
- Avoid putting food, compost or grease down your drains
- Conserve water and try to spread water use over the course of a week
- Avoid excessive use of harsh chemicals in contact with your drainage system
- Avoid flushing non-biodegradable items down the toilet (i.e. plastic, latex, etc...)
- Occasionally inspect the system regarding the maintenance items
- Always hire a trained professional for repair work and **NEVER** enter into the septic tank