

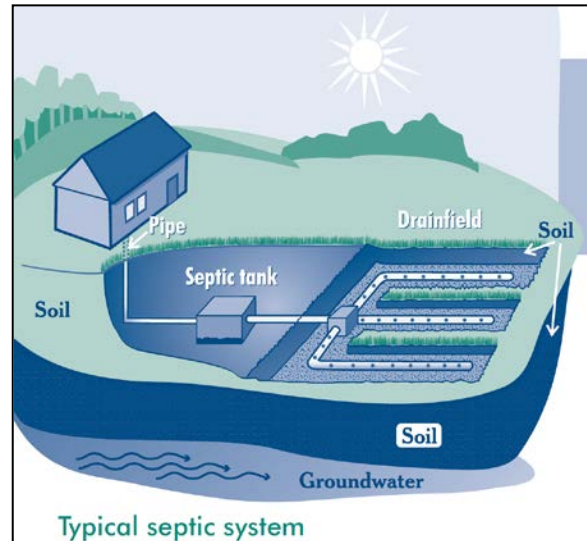


## Do You Know Where Your Septic System Is?

As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system and protecting our rivers and streams.

A **septic system** is a treatment system for your wastewater, consisting of a pipe leaving the house carrying the waste, a septic tank, a drainfield (leach field, absorption field), and suitable soil.

**Regular maintenance** includes pumping your septic tank regularly, usually once every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure.



**Signs of failure** include odors, plumbing or septic tank backups, gurgling sounds in the pumping system or wet, spongy ground or unusually lush plant growth in your yard. Poorly managed septic systems often allow wastes to directly enter waterways.

The **environmental consequences** are potential health hazards at local beaches for swimmers and other water users, an increase of algae and other aquatic plant growth causing fish kills, and contaminated groundwater.

For more tips, go to [www.lgrow.org](http://www.lgrow.org)

