

ON-SITE WASTEWATER

The On-Site Wastewater department permits and supervises the installation of septic systems where sewer lines are not available so that sewage may be safely disposed of with the least impact on individuals and the environment.



The septic tank is a two piece concrete box, sealed at the joints to prevent water seepage. It is placed just below ground level on an undisturbed bed of soil and leveled carefully. The home's wastewater supply line is connected to it. There are two access lids on the top which allow access for inspection and pumping of effluent.

The lids on the top of the tank allow access for inspection and periodic pumping. Inside the lids on the outlet end is a "tee", which keeps grease and solids from entering the drain lines and clogging them. The tank is separated into two chambers by a "baffle wall", which prevents solids from entering the second chamber or outlet end of the tank.



After leaving the septic tank, the effluent is piped to a distribution device, in this case a "dropbox", which is carefully leveled. There are two pipes leaving this box, one to the first trench, the second, which is higher, to the second trench. This allows the first trench to fill before the second. Another box allows the second trench to feed before the last.

In this installation, a chamber system is used. The total length is determined by the calculations of gallons per day of waste and the soil characteristics. The number of trenches used is determined by the lot layout, size, and topography.



The Environmental Health Specialist carefully examines each part of the installation of the system to ensure that it will operate according to the design specifications.

After the system is approved, the contractor may cover the system. The area is seeded with grass to aid in removing surface water and the plumbing is connected to the tank.

