

Signs of Septic System Failure



Stop + Look + Smell

slow drains • sewage backup • black/brown water pooling
soft/spongy ground over septic bed area • sewage smell

What to do when there's a problem

Report any issues to the Town of Innisfil before proceeding with repairs. Once you obtain approval from the building department, call a licensed contractor. Detail the full extent of the problem, giving specific details as to when you first noticed any symptoms.

Anyone in the business of installing, repairing, servicing or pumping septic systems must be licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Why worry?

Proper maintenance protects our drinking water

A malfunctioning septic system can release waste and bacteria into the ground and can contaminate groundwater or surface water. Because our drinking water comes from these sources, it can contaminate your water supply and that of your neighbours.



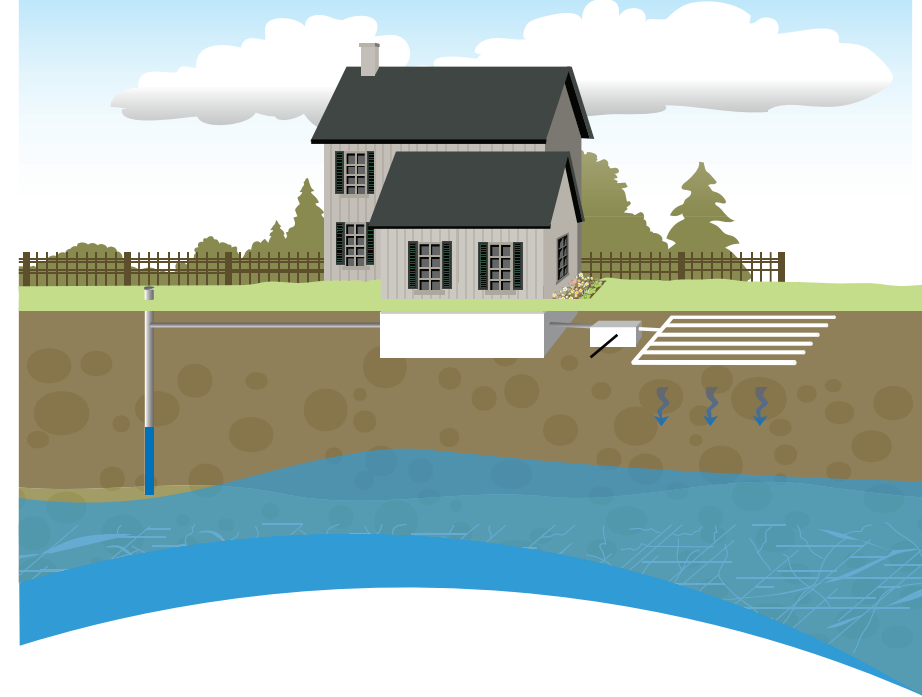
Spot the red flags

You can help your septic system by keeping it free of hazards. Common problems that are identified during inspections include:

- ◆ Vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed
- ◆ Trees, roots or other excessive vegetation in the leaching bed
- ◆ Deficient septic or holding tanks
- ◆ Fire pits dug into the leaching bed
- ◆ Outhouses in disrepair
- ◆ Structures on top of the leaching bed
- ◆ Deck posts on septic or holding tanks
- ◆ Patios over leaching beds

Learn more:

- Town of Innisfil Customer Service
innisfil.ca, 705-436-3710
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
smdhu.org, 1-877-721-7520
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
lsrca.on.ca, 1-800-465-0437
- Province of Ontario
ontario.ca, search "septic"
- Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre
ontarioruralwastewatercentre.ca
- Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association
oowa.org, 1-855-905-6692
- Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services
oasisontario.on.ca, 1-877-202-0082



Septic Re-Inspection Program

Do Your Part. Be Septic Smart!



2101 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil ON L9S 1A1

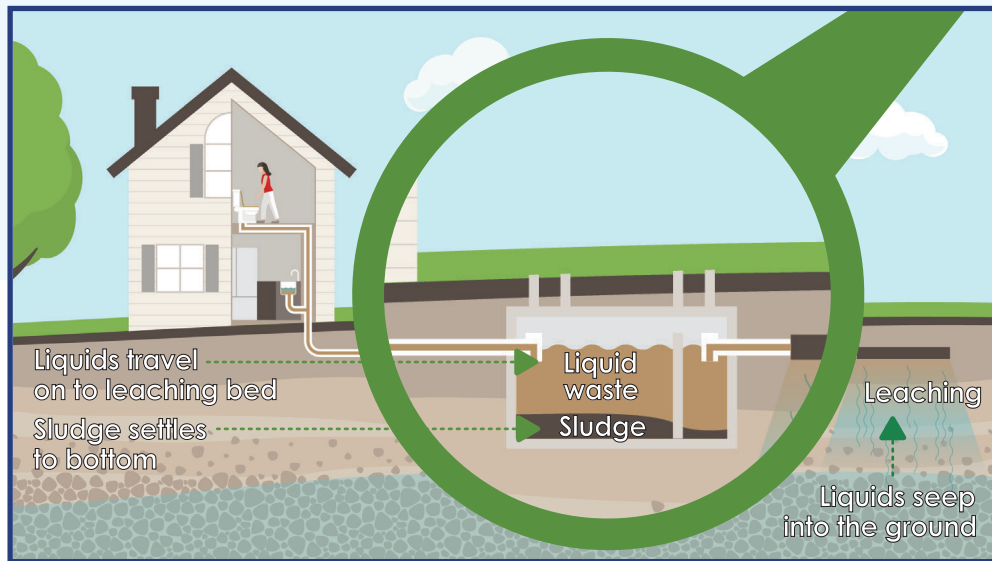
705-436-3710 | 1-888-436-3710
www.innisfil.ca | inquiry@innisfil.ca

Accessible formats available upon request

Out of sight, out of mind: Get to know your septic system

Your septic system is located underground. When functioning correctly, it provides a safe, reliable way of treating your household wastewater. You may not always even remember that it's there, but just like your home appliances or roof, **septic systems need maintenance, repair and eventual replacement.**

A typical septic system has an underground tank, a distribution line and a soil absorption drainage field. Wastewater leaves the home through an underground pipe connected to the septic tank. Baffles in the septic tank slow the flow of the incoming wastewater and prevent sewage from flowing directly through the tank. Heavier solids settle to the bottom and accumulate as sludge.



The health of your septic system affects you

You are responsible for your septic system. A properly functioning septic system enhances property value and may prevent costly replacement or repairs.

By keeping your septic system working properly, you're protecting your health, investment and environment!

Septic Re-Inspection Program

As mandated by the Ontario Building Code, we administer a mandatory septic system re-inspection program for properties located within 100 m of:

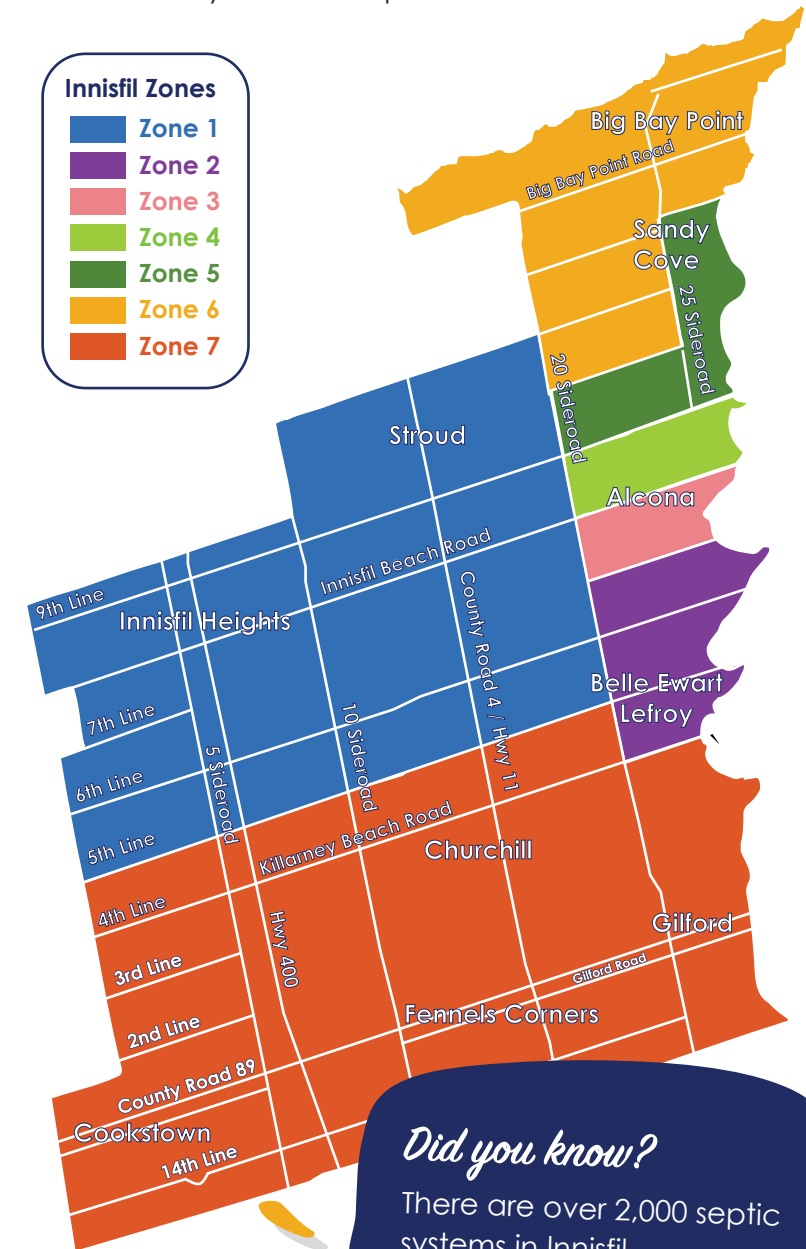
- the Lake Simcoe shoreline
- a Municipal Well
- a river, stream, lake or pond that is contained within the Lake Simcoe watershed

At some point, your septic system will require an inspection (see Septic Re-Inspection Map). You will receive a notice in the mail before the visual surface inspection is performed and notified if any deficiencies are found.

The cost of a regular 5-year inspection is \$142.

Septic Re-Inspection Map

The Town of Innisfil Septic Re-inspection Program will take approximately 5 years to complete across the entire municipality. Seven zones in Innisfil (pictured below) will be covered over the 5-year period, after which the cycle of re-inspections will start over.



Did you know?

There are over 2,000 septic systems in Innisfil.