



The TOWNSHIP of
NORTH DUMFRIES

Why is it important to ensure that my Septic System works properly?

Failed systems pose a serious public health risk, can contaminate the surrounding ground and water, and enter drinking water systems far beyond the property boundaries. Improperly treated septic wastes pollute the surface water and cause a significant threat to the environment.

How do I know that my Septic System works properly?

Some septic systems, even if they appear to “work” by accepting and disposing household waste, can still be malfunctioning. Being part of the Sewage System Mandatory Maintenance Inspection Program (SSMMIP) your system will be inspected by a qualified inspector, who will discuss concerns and look for possible evidence of the system failure.

What does the inspection cost?

The Township of North Dumfries has decided to waive the fee for initial inspections completed in 2015. The only costs to the property owner will be the costs of having the septic tank pumped out if it hasn't been done already within the last 12 months (provided proof of pump out is available. This cost may be eligible for funding available in the near future through the Region of Waterloo. If you have your tank pumped out, keep record of it for the potential subsidy and this re-inspection program requirement.

Are there any other Incentive Programs available?

The Region of Waterloo is finalizing an Incentive Program as well and will announce the details soon. It is anticipated that septic systems inspected prior to the formalization of the Regional program will be retroactively eligible for any applicable incentives.

What happens if my septic system does not pass the initial inspection?

If a malfunction or failure is detected during the initial inspection a further investigation of the cause of the failure will be required. Typically the owner will be required to schedule a formal septic audit with Certified Installer and/or a Professional Engineer to determine the cause and propose a solution to the malfunction.

What happens if my septic system passes the initial inspection?

The Township will document the successful passing of the initial inspection and the date in its database. Notification of the deadline for the next SSMMIP inspection will be sent to you approximately 1 year in advance of the next required inspection.

I am an owner of a septic system with a tertiary treatment unit and my system is regularly maintained by a maintenance provider. Is the SSMMIP inspection required for my property?

Yes. Qualified Third Party maintenance is required for all Septic Systems with a level IV Treatment Unit (Tertiary) to ensure compliance to the Ontario Building Code (OBC). The maintenance reports must be submitted to the Chief Building Official (CBO) on an annual basis and regular sampling of the effluent shall be performed and documented.

Why is the pumping of my septic tank required?

A septic tank is required by the OBC to be pumped not later than when scum and sludge layer occupy 1/3 of the working capacity of the tank. In practice this means that the septic tank should be pumped out at minimum every 3-5 years. Regular pumping may prolong the life of the system and can have significant impact on the health and environment by:

- Minimizing the amount of solids entering the septic bed
- Improving quality of the effluent

The Township of North Dumfries also recognizes other aspects of the septic tank pump-out that could benefit the proper inspection of your system:

- Chance to check the condition of the entire tank
- Determining approximate size of the tank
- Discover any possible backflows from the septic bed
- Ensure that the outlet and inlet are properly installed
- Chance to clean the outlet effluent filter (if installed)

How do I schedule the initial inspection?

Submit the complete Septic System Survey that you received from the Township by:

- Mail:
Township of North Dumfries – Building Department
2958 Greenfield Rd.
Ayr, ON
NOB 1E0
- Email: mail@northdumfries.ca
- Or in person

What can I do before the inspection?

Ensure that:

- A complete Survey and Septic Tank Pump-out Record were submit to the Development Services Department,
- The tank was pumped within the last 6 months
- Tank lids are exposed for the scheduled inspection – please note – do not leave tank lids open – keep them secured until the inspector arrives

I want to pump my septic right now? Is it a good idea?

Ideally the Township wishes to complete the SSMMIP initial inspection within six (6) months of the septic tank being pumped. Please ask your septic tank pumper to fill out the Pumping Report which has been mailed to you and which is also available at www.northdumfries.ca under the Septic System Mandatory Maintenance Inspection Program page. Be sure to book your inspection as soon as possible after pumping is completed.

What is the Program time frame?

The Ontario Building Code requires all septic identified as threats within the Grand River Source Water Protection Assessment report to be inspected within five years of the filing of the assessment and thereafter, every five years after the most recent inspection.

The Grand River Source Water Protection Assessment Report was approved by the Ministry of the Environment on August 16th, 2012 which therefore means the deadline for all the initial inspections to be completed is August 15th, 2017.

To accommodate all of the required inspections, Township of North Dumfries is starting the SSMMIP during the 2015 construction season.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any additional questions please call the Township of North Dumfries at (519) 632-8800 or visit www.northdumfries.ca and click on the link to the Septic System Mandatory Maintenance Inspection Program page.