

**Will my septic tank
PASS or FAIL an inspection?
Reasons for failure**

- **Cannot find the septic tank**
- **Manhole cover broken or missing**
- **Evidence of ponding of effluent downstream of the tank or percolation area or excessive grass growth.**
- **Sewage contaminated drain downstream of the septic tank/system**
- **Roof water is connected to the system**
- **Structural problems in the septic tank.**
- **Rock out crop in the percolation area.**
- **Power not connected in advanced treatment systems**

Log on to
<http://www.epa.ie/water/wastewater/info/insp/>
for more information on septic tank inspections.

Watch a video about the septic tank inspections at
<http://www.epa.ie/water/wastewater/nip/>

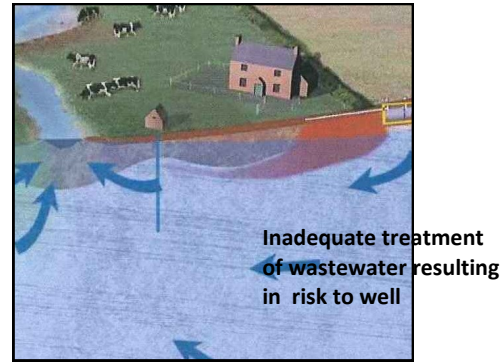
Consult the *EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems for Single Houses (2009)*, before constructing or upgrading a wastewater treatment system.

Your wastewater disposal system is an essential part of your property. The following documents should be maintained.

- Site characterisation reports
- Installation & system certificates
- Manufacturers instructions
- Service records and receipts from a licensed contractor for sludge removal.

PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

Wells and springs are fed by groundwater which moves through the pores or cracks in soils and rocks.

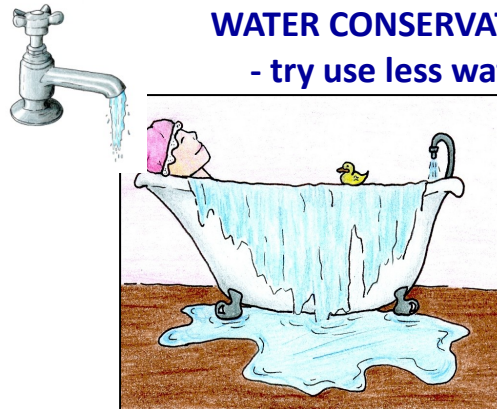


www.wfdvisual.com

Poorly constructed wastewater treatment systems can lead to groundwater pollution. Well contamination by micro-organisms is a common problem in Ireland.

Animal manure should not be spread within 25 meters of your well.

WATER CONSERVATION - try use less water

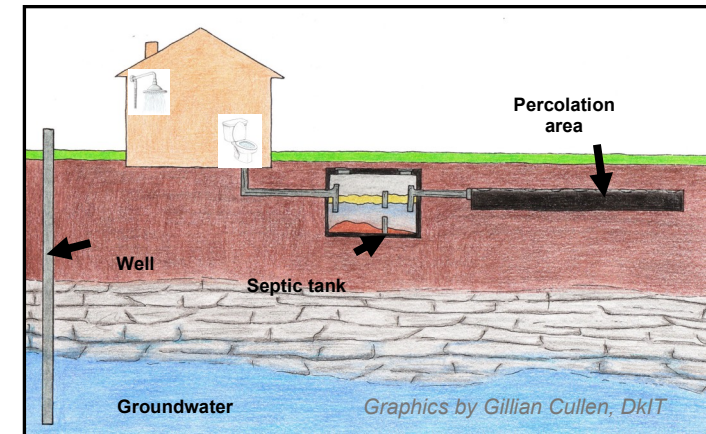


Refer to www.taptips.ie, the **WATER WISE** leaflet or the Environment Section of your local authority for advice on water conservation.

Monaghan

COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CONTAE
MHUINEACHÁIN

GUIDELINES for SEPTIC TANK And other WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS



Cuireadh an treoirleabhrán seo le chéile do shealbhóirí tí agus gnóthais bheaga atá ag brath ar umar seipteach nó ar chóras eile um chóireáil fuíolluisce chun salú/fuíolluiscí a dhiúscairt i mbealach ina íoslaghdaítear an baol do shláinte an duine agus don timpeallacht.

Environment Section,
Monaghan County Council,
Carrickmacross Civic Offices
Riverside Road,
Carrickmacross.

Phone: 042 9661240

Recycling Centre 047 80888

January 2014

DO YOU OWN A SEPTIC TANK OR OTHER TREATMENT SYSTEM?

Poorly managed wastewater treatment systems can contaminate drinking water, including your own well and can pollute local streams.



By law owners of treatment systems have to register their waste water system and ensure that it is properly designed, constructed, installed and maintained.

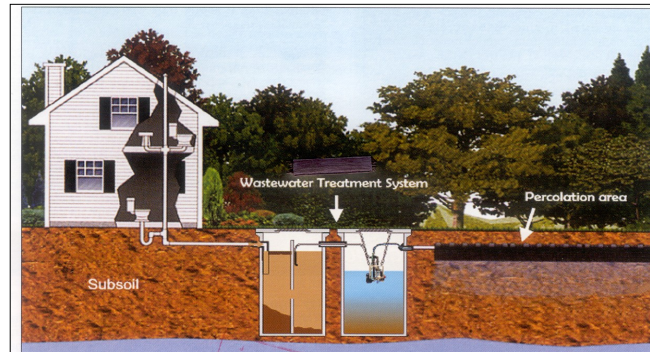
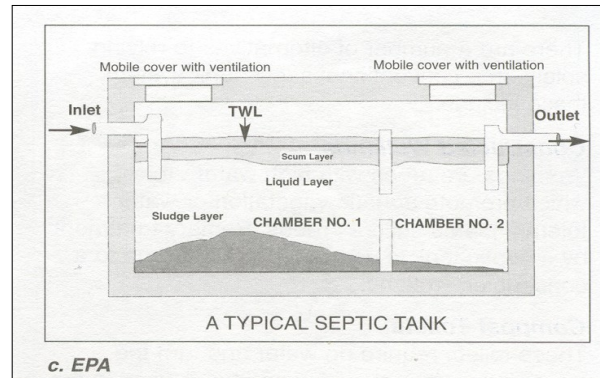
Your treatment system may not be working properly if you see any of the following:

- Slowly draining toilets, baths, sinks etc.
- Surface ponding of smelling effluent “downstream” of the treatment system
- Signs of pollution in nearby ditches or watercourses
- Vigorous plant growth downstream of the treatment system.

There is a full list of **Frequently Asked Questions** about domestic wastewater treatment systems available on the Monaghan County Council website. (www.monaghan.ie)

HOW IT WORKS

A modern septic tank system includes a double chamber tank and percolation area. Waste water is partially digested by bacteria in the septic tank and the effluent then passes through gravel and soil. In areas with restricted percolation an advanced treatment system may be required.



Advanced treatment systems with mechanical aeration or filtration units are generally recommended where site conditions are limited. Such systems treat wastewater to a higher standard than the conventional septic tank. Treated effluent is discharged to a soil filtration system, a raised mound or wetland system.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR SEPTIC TANK!

- Know where your tank is located - in some cases it may be under the patio or porch or in the neighbours field. You will need access to it for maintenance
- Greywaters from sinks, dishwasher and washing machines should discharge to your septic tank
- Exclude grease, food waste and large amounts of bleach or other chemicals from your tank - avoid upsetting the bacterial balance of your tank
- Exclude rainwater drainage pipes from your tank
- Kitchen and baby wipes can cause blockages - **Bag and Bin** wipes and sanitary items.
- Regularly check your tank and percolation area
- Mechanical treatment systems require regular maintenance and a contract should be entered into with the supplier
- All systems require regular sludge removal.

KEEP YOUR TANK IN WORKING ORDER

WHAT WE FIND

In a recent survey of treatment systems in Monaghan, common problems found were:

- Poorly constructed septic tanks
- Poorly maintained packaged treatment systems.
- Lack of proper percolation areas
- No sludge removal and poor maintenance
- Polluting discharges direct to waterways.