Other Types of Systems

Did you know?

Other treatment units

There are several other treatment units available for approval under the Ontario Building Code.

New technologies include devices or filters that provide treatment of sewage either in conjunction with a conventional septic tank or with a CAN/BNQ 3680 approved unit. The new technologies generally provide a Level 4 Treatment / higher effluent quality.

These sewage systems may require soil bases that may be smaller than those required for conventional systems, making them a potential option for use on small or difficult sites.

Leaching Pits

Leaching (greywater) pits may be allowed for low water flow conditions in remote areas. Confirm with the NBMCA before construction as a sewage system permit is required.

Pit privies & Composting toilets

Pit privies (outhouses) or composting toilets may also be used, but must meet current standards. Leaching pits are typically installed in combination with pit privies or composting toilets.

Holding Tanks

Holding tanks are only permitted under very strict guidelines. Consult with NBMCA. Pump out contract must be in place / remain in place (new owner is responsible if property changes hands).

High level A/V alarms must remain operational.

Renovations

If you are enlarging or renovating your home or cottage in the Nipissing - Parry Sound District, approval by North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) may be required to ensure that your existing sewage system can accommodate the potential increase of sewage flow. A Sewage System File Review can be done to determine this.

Contact the NBMCA for further information and/or required applications.



NORTH BAY - MATTAWA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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Additional sources of information on sewage systems:

North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority nbmca.ca/planning-development-permits/ on-site-sewage-system-septic-permits/

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre ontarioruralwastewatercentre.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing ontario.ca

Caring for your sewage system

Provided by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority



Your sewage system is your responsibility!

Your on-site sewage system is a sewage treatment facility. It requires attention to design, construction and maintenance.

With proper knowledge and care of your sewage system, you will be contributing to the protection of ground and surface waters that are important to all if us.

In addition, a sewage system built to current standards and maintained properly may:

- enhance the value of your property;
- prevent costly replacement or repairs and;
- help protect our health and environment.

In Ontario, the specifications for construction and maintenance of sewage systems (with a design daily flow of less than 10,000 litres per day) are regulated under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code (OBC). Sewage System permits in most municipalities within Nipissing and Parry Sound districts are issued by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority.

What can you do to protect your on-site sewage system?



Your sewage system can provide years of use provided it is properly maintained and serviced. Understanding the components that create your sewage system is a good start.



- Have scum and sludge level checked annually.
- Have baffles checked and replaced if necessary.
- If an effluent filter is present, clean it 2 x per year (when you check your smoke alarms).
- Have tank pumped every 2-3 years. OBC states when the scum and sludge occupy 1/3 capacity.

Leaching bed

- Divert surface runoff and roof drains away from the leaching bed area.
- Avoid compaction of soil over the leaching bed (vehicles, sheds, pools, heavy equipment, etc.)
- Ensure that unsaturated, porous soil is present under the leaching bed pipes.
- Avoid heavy lawn watering in or near a leaching bed area.
- · Maintain access to sunlight in the leaching bed area to encourage evapotranspiration.
- Check for wet spots or uneven lush vegetation growth on areas over leaching bed pipes which may indicate poor distribution of effluent.

Other Components

All treatment units must have valid maintenance agreements in place at all times. When the property changes hands the new owner is responsible for ensuring maintenance agreement is in place. Annual maintenance by an approved service provider on all treatment systems is required.

- Obtain and/or review your existing sewage system permit. If you have questions, contact NBMCA.
- Keep accurate records of pumping, maintenance and repair, including a sketch of your system.
- Avoid antibacterial products and be aware that powerful doses of chemotherapy drugs/strong antibiotics (& other medications) can damage the biological life which is necessary for the system to function properly.
- Do no put paint, petroleum products, grease or pesticides down the drain.
- Flush only toilet tissue. Anything else (tampons, wet wipes, diapers, etc.) may clog the system.
- Avoid high water flows that may overload thew sewage system.
- Grow grass on top of your leaching bed to prevent erosion and increase evapotranspiration.
- · If possible retrofitting existing tanks with effluent filter may prolong lifespan of system.