

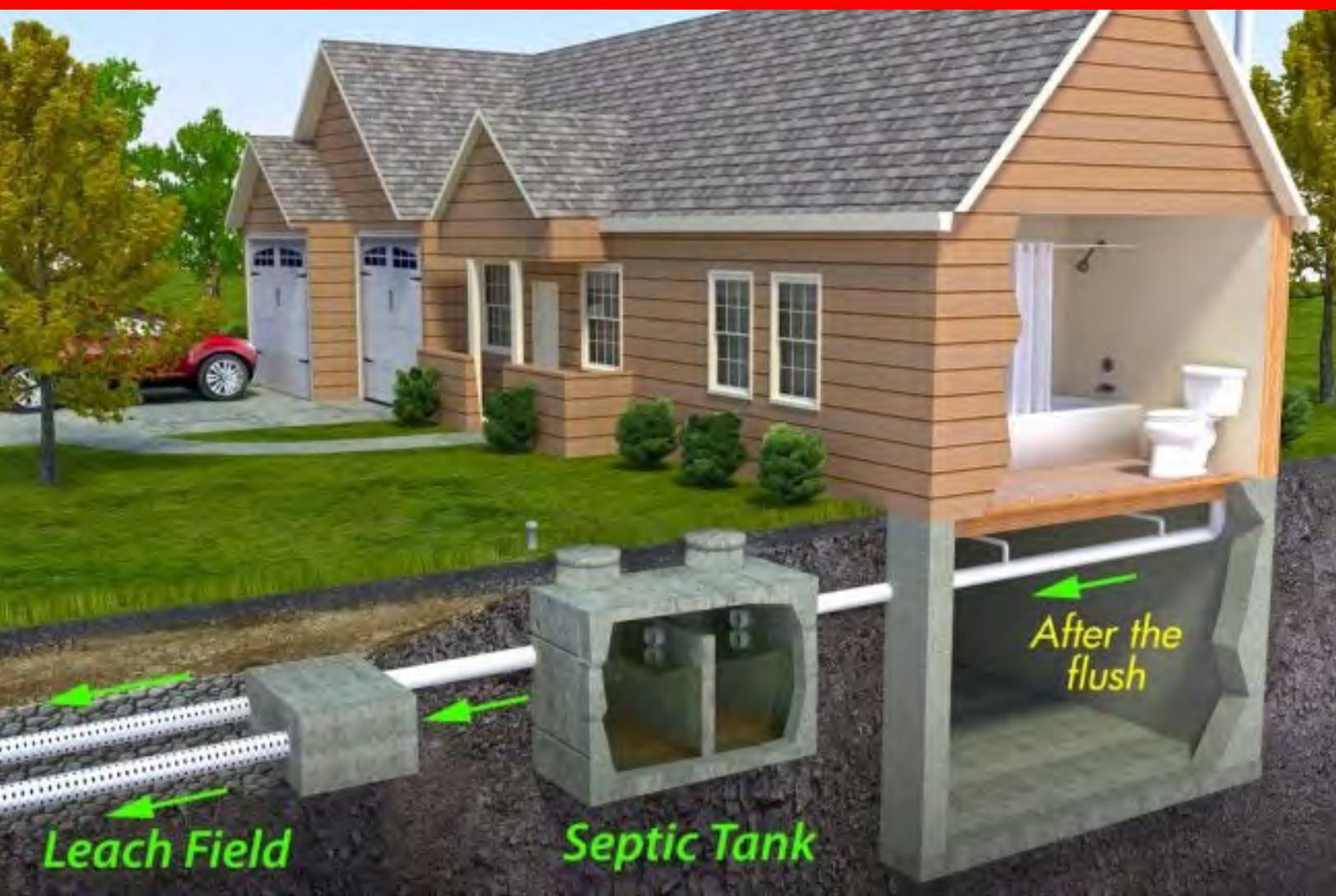
HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR **SEPTIC SYSTEM**



calldrainworks.com 

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DRAINWORKS
PLUMBING & SEPTIC

 calldrainworks.com

 860-337-1080



Congratulations on your new septic system, or the purchase of your new home with a septic system. Septic system maintenance is not complicated, and it does not need to be expensive. Drainworks believes Upkeep comes down to four key elements:



Inspect and Pump Frequently



Use Water Efficiently



Properly Dispose of Waste



Maintain Your Leach fields

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Inspect and Pump Frequently

The average household septic system should be inspected at least every two years by Drainworks Plumbing & Septic. Household septic tanks are typically pumped every two to three years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components should be inspected more often, generally once a year.

A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts. Ask about Drainworks septic protection plan, if you haven't already been provided with information.

Four major factors influence the frequency of septic pumping:



Household size & usage



Volume of solids in wastewater



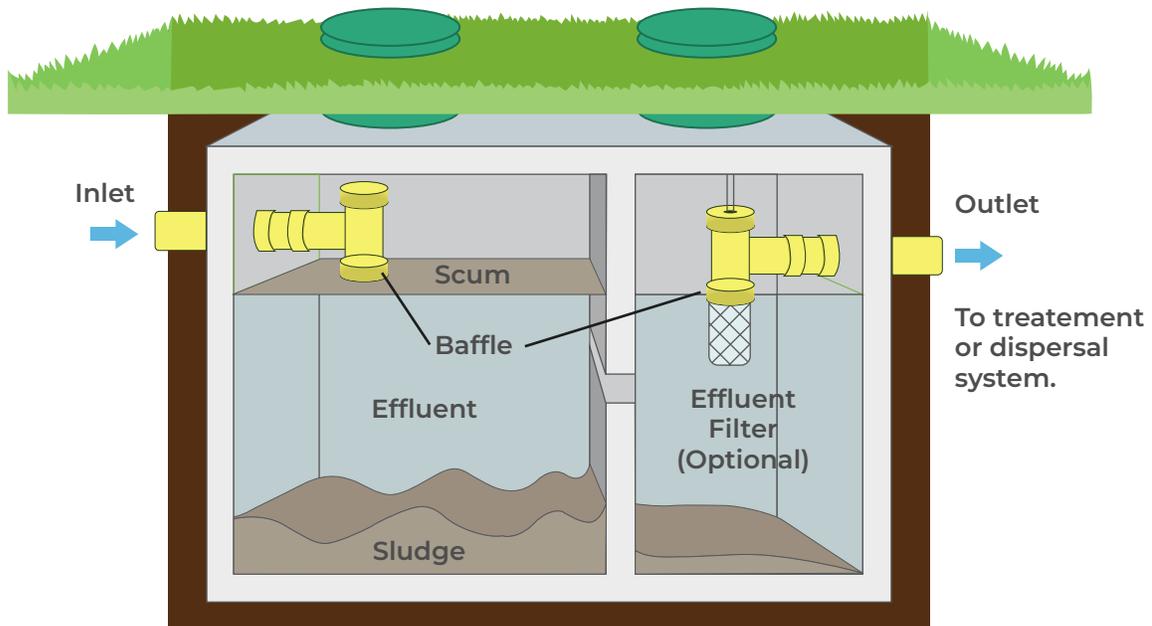
Total wastewater generated



Septic tank size

Septic Tank

Access Risers



Drainworks coming to service your septic tank? Here is what you need to know.

When you call Drainworks, They will inspect for leaks and examine the scum and sludge layers in your septic tank. We will inspect the overall condition of the septic tank, the condition of the baffles, and any other component. If you are home at the time of service, drainworks will have you flush to confirm there are no clogs or obstructions. We will make note of the active working level within the septic tank. This is a snapshot of leach field health.

Most well maintained, properly functioning septic systems do not need the addition of further bacteria or enzymes. However households that may use additional cleaning products or have members on heavy medication may benefit from adding a product that stimulates the good bacteria within a septic tank. Ask your Drainworks service expert if your tank would benefit from additional bacteria.

Upon completion we will provide you with a pump out report. Keep maintenance records on work performed on your septic system.

Your septic tank includes a T-shaped outlet baffle which prevents sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling to the drainfield area. When the total solid accumulation reaches 25% of the total volume of the tank, septic tank pumping is strongly recommended. To keep track of when to pump out your tank, Drainworks will provide you with a pump out report after each cleaning. When you are due for service in the future, if not part of our septic protection plan, we will provide you with a reminder for service.



Use Water Efficiently

The average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is nearly 70 gallons per individual, per day. Just a single leaky or running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day.

All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.

The EPA's WaterSense program has many simple ways to save water and water-efficient products.



High-efficiency toilets.

Toilet use accounts for 25 to 30 percent of household water use. Many older homes have toilets with 3.5- to 5-gallon reservoirs, while newer, high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 gallons of water or less per flush. Replacing existing toilets with high-efficiency models is an easy way to reduce the amount of household water entering your septic system.



Faucet aerators and high-efficiency showerheads.

Faucet aerators, high-efficiency showerheads, and shower flow restrictors help reduce water use and the volume of water entering your septic system.



Washing machines.

Washing small loads of laundry on your washing machine's large-load cycle wastes water and energy. By selecting the proper load size, you will reduce water waste. If you are unable to select a load size, run only full loads of laundry.

Try to spread washing machine use throughout the week. Doing all household laundry in one day might seem like a time-saver; but it can harm your septic system, not allow your septic tank enough time to treat waste, and could flood your drainfield

Clothes washers that bear the [ENERGY STAR](#) label use 35 percent less energy and 50 percent less water than standard models. Other Energy Star appliances provide significant energy and water savings.

Properly Dispose of Waste

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works.

Toilets aren't trash cans!

Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb: Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush:



- ❌ Cooking grease or oil
- ❌ Household cleaning products, like bleach or other antibacterial soaps
- ❌ Non-flushable wipes, such as baby wipes or other wet wipes
- ❌ Cigarette butts
- ❌ Photographic solutions
- ❌ Coffee grounds
- ❌ Feminine hygiene products
- ❌ Cat litter
- ❌ Condoms
- ❌ Paper towels
- ❌ Dental floss
- ❌ Pharmaceuticals
- ❌ Diapers
- ❌ Household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint or paint thinners

Think at the sink!

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Whether you are at the kitchen sink, bathtub, or utility sink:



Avoid chemical drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake.



Never pour cooking oil or grease down the drain.



Never pour oil-based paints, solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain. Even latex paint waste should be minimized.



Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal. This will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease, and solids that enter your septic tank and ultimately clog its drainfield.



Maintain Your Leach Fields

Your leach fields—a component of your septic system that removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank—is an important part of your septic system. Here are a few things you should do to maintain it:

**Parking:**

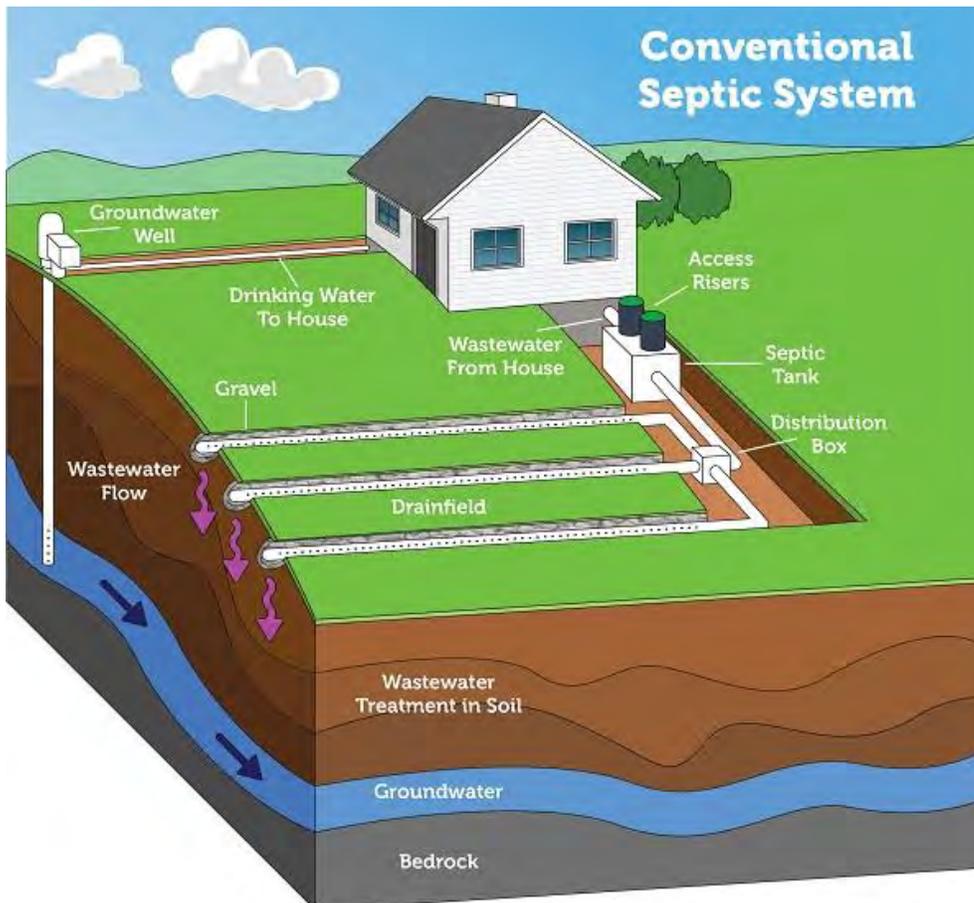
Never park or drive on your leach fields.

**Planting:**

Plant trees the appropriate distance from your leach fields to keep roots from growing into your septic system. Drainworks can advise you of the proper distance, depending on your septic tank and landscape.

**Placing:**

Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your leach field area. Excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

Pump Chambers

Pump systems are needed when the drain fields are installed at a higher elevation than the outlet flowline of your septic tank. Pump chambers are a second tank after your primary septic tank. They receive the effluent that has been pre treated with in your septic tank. The more often you pump your septic tank, the better “quality” of effluent will be pump up to your leach fields. This second chamber contains mechanical pumps and floats.

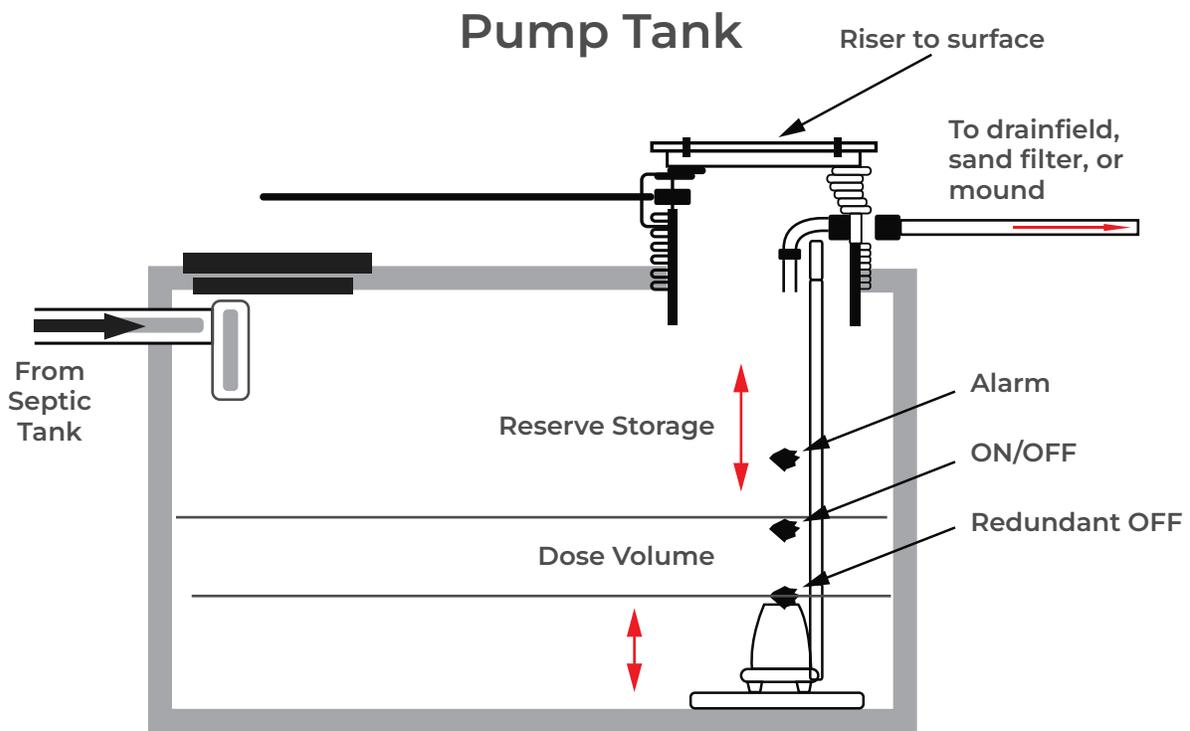
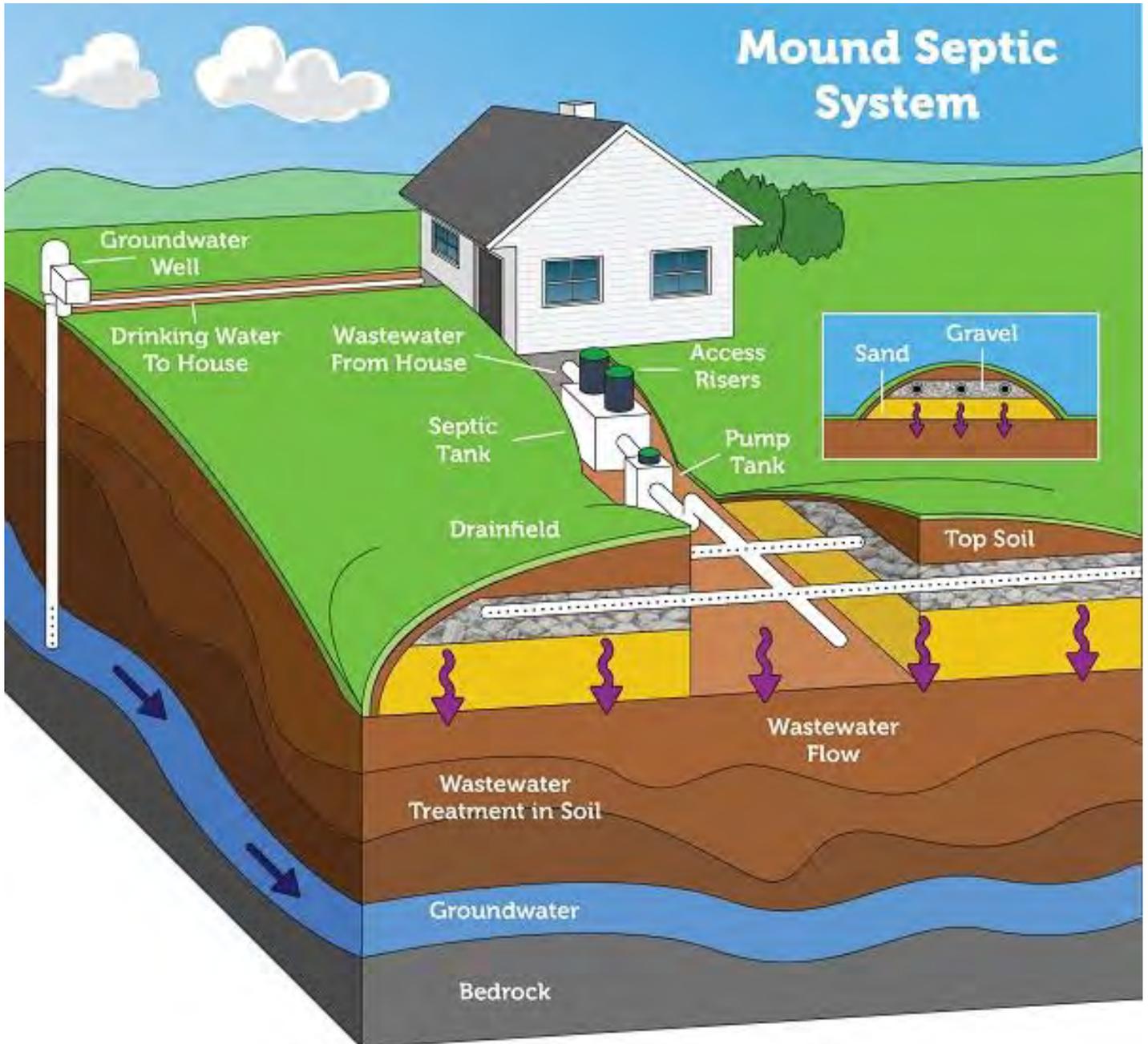


Diagram 3

The floats are connected to a panel that acts as the “brain” of this complicated pump system. The floats tell the panel to turn on the pump once the liquid level reaches a certain level. There is a high level alarm float. This provides a visual and auditory alarm at the panel. This is an indication something may not be working correctly. Your system is designed with a minimum of 24 hour storage capacity. If you receive an alarm, or lose power, a household should conserve water, but call Drainworks to schedule a diagnosis of the issue.



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Serving residents of COLUMBIA
& surrounding areas



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