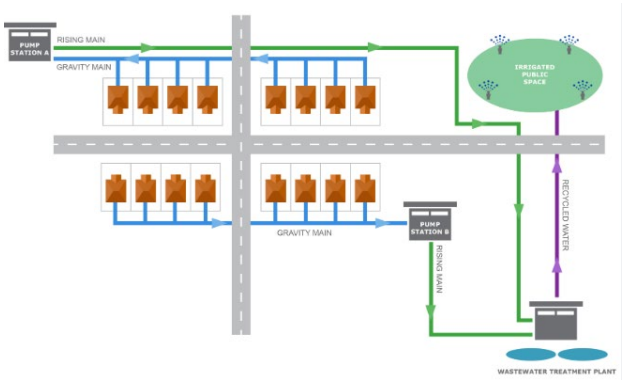
COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SCHEME (CWMS)

WAKEFIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

UNDERSTAND YOUR OBLIGATION

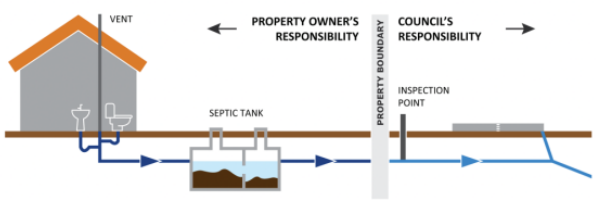
What is CWMS Scheme?

A CWMS is a system for collecting, treating, reusing, and/or disposing of primary treated effluent from septic tanks on individual properties. The collecting system is a network of pipes and pumping stations that transports sewage from septic tanks to treatment facilities.



Why should I care?

The septic system is a part of your property and comes with significant financial investment if it needs to be replaced. It is your legal responsibility to ensure the system is of adequate size, properly maintained, and serviced as per the regulatory requirements.



What should I do?

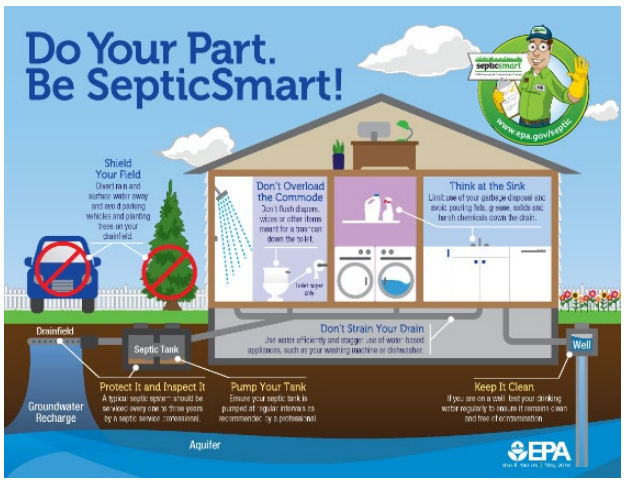
DO inspect the system prior to purchasing. Learn the location of your septic tank, understand the tank capacity and your legal responsibilities.

DO acquire the wastewater approval for the system. This will provide useful information (constructed plans, size) about your system.

DO ensure your septic tank has an accessible lid for Council contractor's desludging access. All covers shall be finished to a minimum of 50 mm above the finished ground surface level.

DO maintain your septic in good working condition. Council provides one scheduled pump out every four years. Any additional pump outs are the responsibility of property owners.

DO practice water conservation. Repair dripping taps and leaky toilets, avoid long showers, and use water-saving features for taps, shower heads and toilets.



What Shouldn't I do?

DO NOT release prohibited discharges such as stormwater, rainwater tank overflow, backwash from swimming pools, wipes, sanitary napkins, grease, fats, bleach, medicines, strong chemicals, trade wastes and flammable substances. Heavy penalties may apply.

DO NOT overload the system by having too many occupants that exceed the capacity of the septic system. The limits of occupants are stated in your waste water approval.



Useful Tips

Only use cleaning products that are labelled as septic safe.

Scrape all food from plates before washing dishes to limit the amount of grease and fats entering the system.

Spread out large washing loads evenly over the week to avoid overloading your septic.

Septic tanks rely on bacteria to break down sewage, the use of bleach and anti-bacterial solutions can destroy these bacteria which may cause poor septic performance and odour issues.

“Flushable” wet wipes are not flushable.

Want to know more?

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