

Septic System Testing Overview

What Is A Septic Tank?

A septic tank is an underwater sedimentation tank used for waste water treatment through the process of biological decomposition and drainage. A septic tank makes use of natural processes & proven technology to treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains and laundry.

A septic tank system has a relatively simple design. It is an underground watertight container (mostly rectangular or round) made of fiberglass, plastic or concrete. These systems are a type of simple onsite sewage facility (OSSF). They work by collecting the excreta and wastewater in one big underground tank, they are predominantly used in rural areas. Sewage then flows to a “finger system” or other disbursement field underground.

Regular maintenance of the septic tank will also be required. Tanks should be pumped and regenerated every 2 to 5 years depending of the homes occupancy.

Access Home Inspections offers two types of septic system inspections.

1. Dye pressure testing: Dye is injected into the system to determine if there is leakage at the tank and distributions system.
2. Sludge Testing: Sampling of the fluid currently in the septic tank to determine if the “sludge” has built up enough that the tank needs to be pumped and regenerated.

**Access HI recommends scoping of the system by a qualified contractor should the Dye pressure test come out negative.