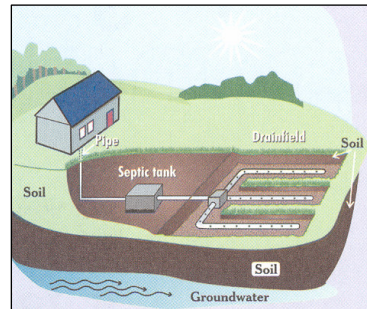


Septic: Your Personal Wastewater Treatment Plant

While most homes in the Village of Paw Paw no longer have working septic systems, some do. Most of our neighbors in townships have septic systems. Septic systems can have an impact on water quality.

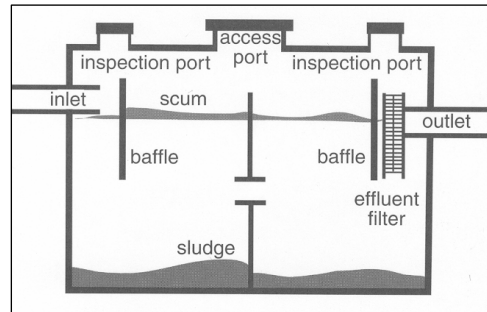
Your home is an important financial investment. There are many considerations for maintaining property value—one of these is the septic system.

Your well and septic system are vital to your home. Septic systems usually consist of two basic parts: a septic tank which separates and partially treats solids contained in wastewater, and a drain field that disperses the water for filtration and further treatment by soil microbes. A functioning septic system removes contaminants from household wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater.



Tips for septic system maintenance:

- Pump your septic tank every 3 to 5 years. Although solids break down over time, a sludge layer still builds up and may clog the drain field.
- Flush responsibly – don't flush non-degradable materials, household chemicals, or septic additives.
- Conserve water – the less water you use, the less water your septic system needs to clean.
- Don't compact the soil over your drain field.



Save money, protect your health, and protect the environment by maintaining your septic system. Keep in mind that groundwater is everybody's resource and everybody's responsibility. Prevent groundwater pollution and protect your financial investment by making sure your septic system is doing its job.

For more tips on how to prevent groundwater pollution or for a free Home*A*Syst booklet to help you evaluate your home's pollution, health, and financial risks, please contact the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program representative at the Van Buren Conservation District office in Paw Paw at (269) 657-4030 ext. 5.