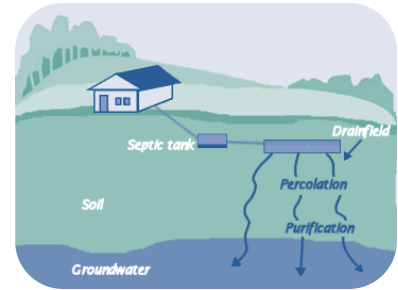


# TIPS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNERS

One source of bacterial pollution to our local creeks appears to be pollutants leaking from septic fields. Here is an important checklist for septic system owners to review:

- Do not connect foundation sump pumps or other “clean water” discharges to your septic systems.
- Inspect your septic tanks and any distribution pumps every year. Measure the level of sludge build-up and inspect the baffles for scum. Pump your septic tank at least every 3 years (or sooner as indicated by your annual inspection of the tank).
- Avoid using a garbage disposal.
- Do not pour old medicines or strong cleaning agents down the drain. They will kill beneficial bacteria that break down the waste in your system.
- Keep trees and shrubs at least 35 feet away from your field to prevent roots from plugging or breaking pipes.
- Route surface water drainage and snowmelt away from your absorption field to avoid inundation of your field.
- Locate your absorption field as far away as possible from surface water to reduce its potential of becoming a source of contamination.



*Source:* Lake Notes, PA Association of Conservation Districts