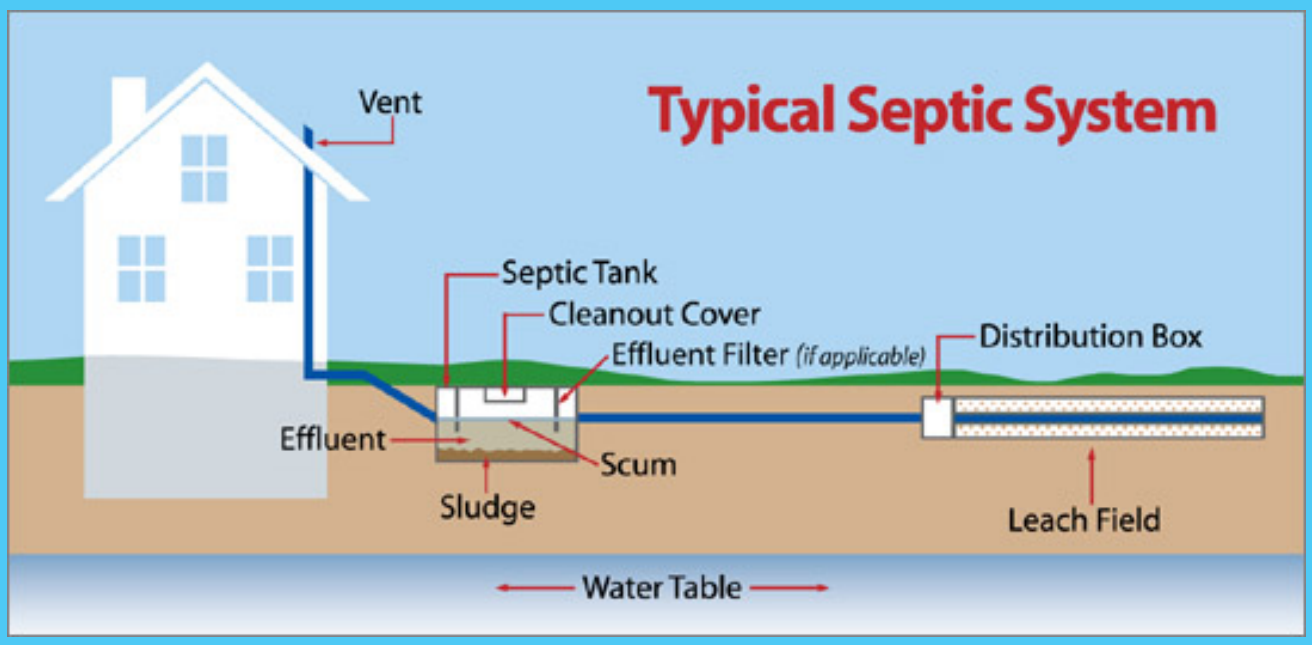
Septic Tank Leaching

If the system is failing or is an older system and is discharging directly into the groundwater, the wastewater is not treated to reduce pathogens or nutrient levels. If this discharge is in close proximity to a water body, it may negatively impact water quality.



Examples of these impacts may include:

Groundwater contamination with pathogens, chemicals or nutrients that affect drinking water wells.

Surface waters can be contaminated with pathogens, such as E. coli, chemicals, and nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorus.

Freshwater rivers, lakes, and ponds are more sensitive to phosphorus contamination from failing septic systems.

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Sewer or Septic

Benefits of a Sewer System:

Designed for heavy waterflow: Sewer systems are designed to handle heavy water usage, including water from heavy rains and wastewater from running multiple plumbing fixtures and appliances at once. A small or unmaintained septic system can easily get overwhelmed by storms or excessive water usage.

Minimal maintenance: While sewer systems do need regular drain cleanings, septic maintenance often involves excavation that results in a foul odor. Unless you need a repair, regular sewer system maintenance can be done without excavating.

Disadvantages of a Septic System:

Frequent clogs: Septic systems are more prone to clogs than sewer systems, which means you have to be more careful of what you flush down the toilet and dispose of down drains. Septic tanks can't handle some food waste and personal care products that sewer systems can.

Routine maintenance: Septic tanks need to be pumped every 3–5 years and sometimes cleaned (when issues come up) to help keep them running smoothly and efficiently. A septic tank pumping involves removing the scum and liquid to improve the tank's ecosystem. A septic tank cleaning, which essentially resets the system so it runs like new, is much more involved and also removes the sludge at the bottom of the tank.

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