

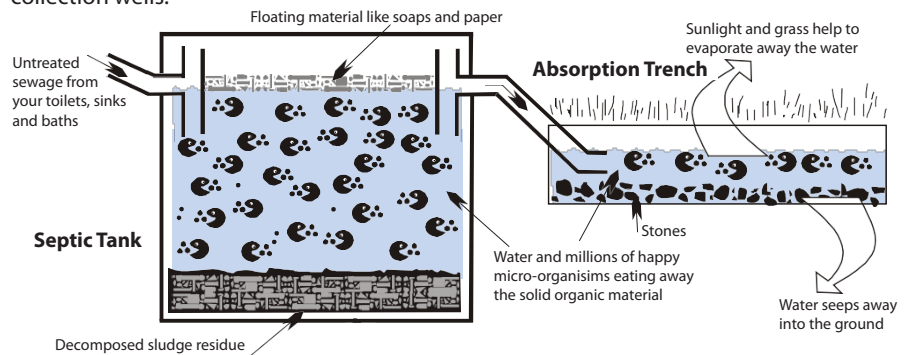
# A Guide to Septic Systems

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Household wastewater (sewage) flows into your septic tank where the solids and liquid separate. The solids are retained in the tank and the liquid flows out into the absorption trench or effluent collection wells.




**Inside a healthy system, healthy organisms eat almost all of the organic solids flushed into your septic**

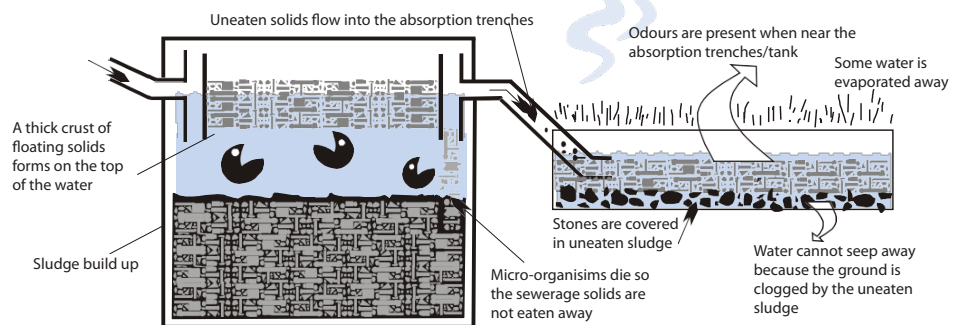


With a reduced tank capacity due to crust and sludge build-up there is space for only a small number of micro-organisms resulting in a faster water flow through the tank. Raw sewage sludge is washed into the trench and the trench becomes clogged, or if you have a collection tank it fills quicker than it should. Have your solids tank checked every 3-5 years.

**Solids build-up**




**When septic are not pumped out, solids build-up reducing the tanks capacity**

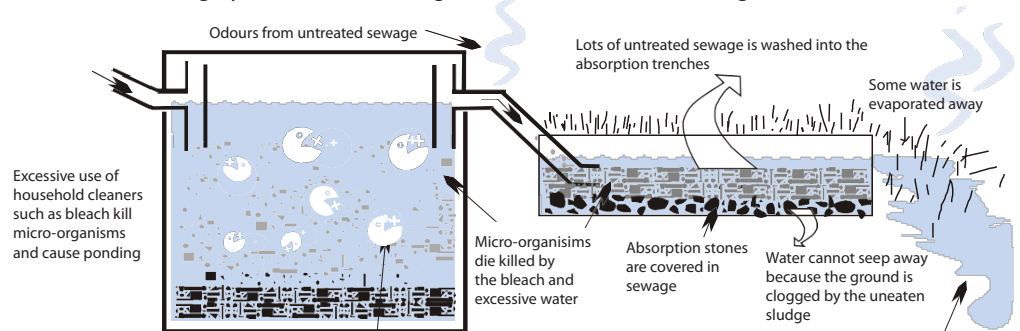


A minimum of 24 hours retention time is required to avoid washing away micro-organisms. When excessive water from automatic washing machines and dishwashers is pumped into the system, the micro-organisms die and sewage sludge flows into your trenches or effluent tank. The solution is to divert some of the grey water from washing machines and showers onto gardens.

**Excessive Water Use**



**When too much water or bleach is put into your septic it kills the micro-organisms**



If excess water causes ponding and odours at the end of your trench YOU HAVE A PROBLEM. This untreated effluent carries diseases and is a serious health risk.