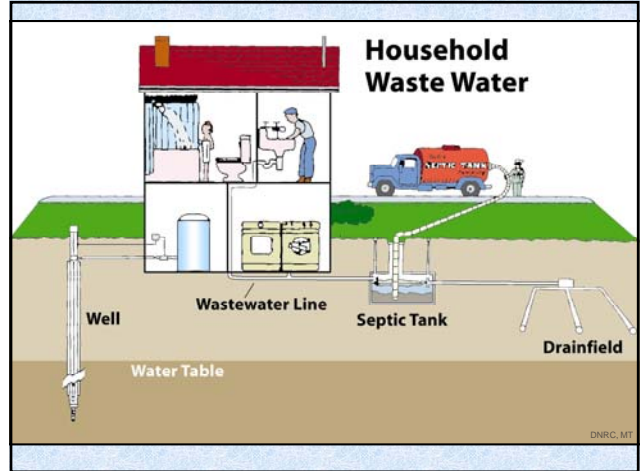
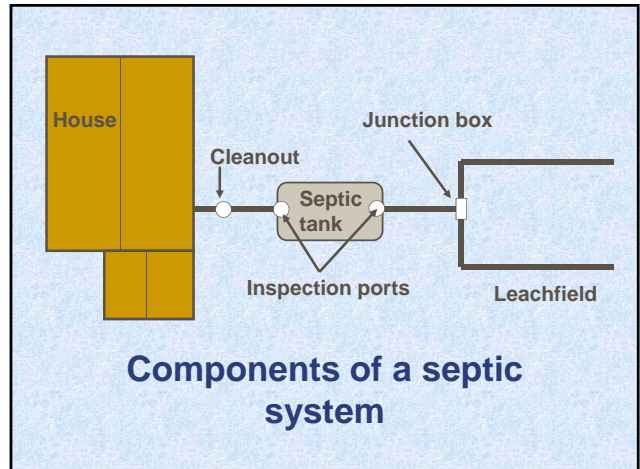
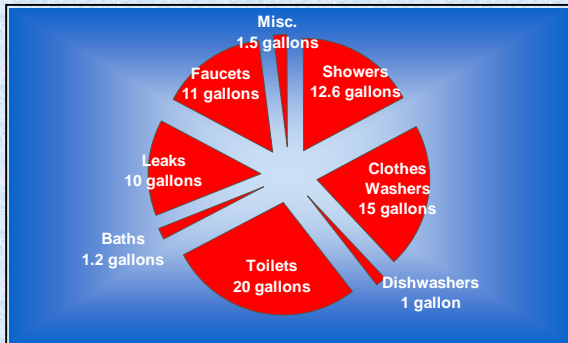


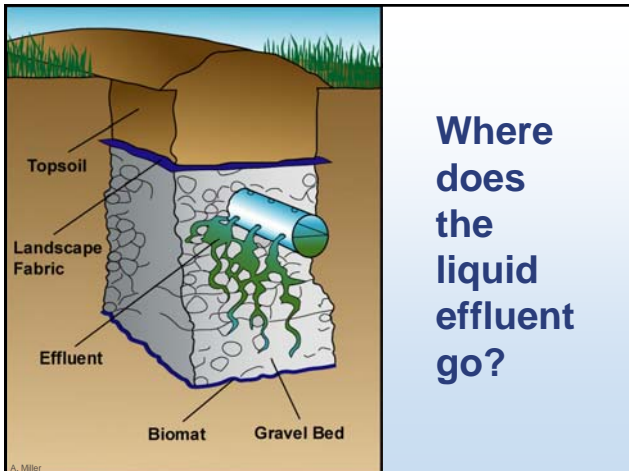
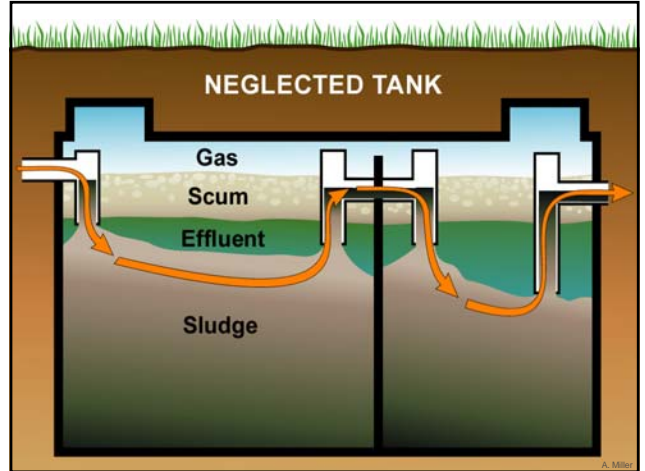
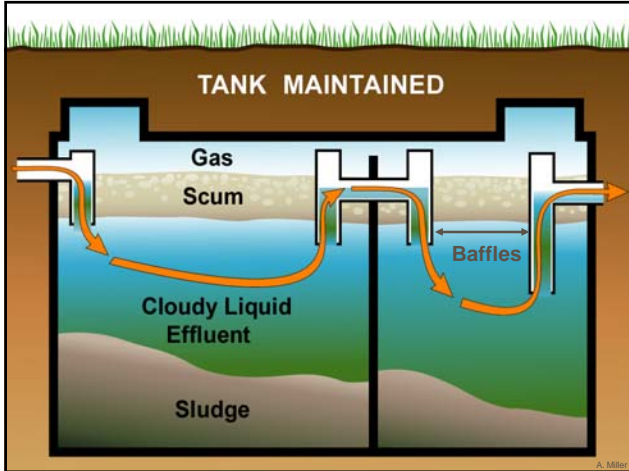
## Septic Systems

Out of sight and out of mind...until you smell them!




## How much water do YOU use per day?



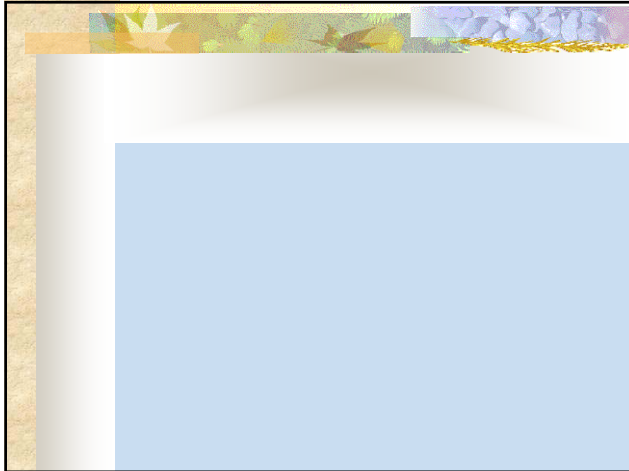


**Do you know???**

- Where your tank is?
- How big it is?
- When it was last pumped?
- The location of your leachfield?



DNRC, Montana



### Maintaining your septic system

- PUMP YOUR TANK!
- Keep your bacteria healthy and happy



UNCE, Reno, NV

### Suggested pumping interval (years)

| Tank Size (gallons) | Number of people in your household |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                     | 1                                  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1000                | 12                                 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 1250                | 16                                 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 1500                | 19                                 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 |

### To pump... or not to pump

- Pumping costs about \$350 for the average 1000-gallon tank, every three years or so
- A new leachfield costs from \$5,000 for an inground system to as much as \$20,000 for an engineered field

***Which would you choose?***

### What can I plant on or near my leachfield?

#### OK to Plant

- Grasses
- Perennial and annual flowers
- Many perennial groundcovers



#### Avoid Planting

- All trees
- Large shrubs



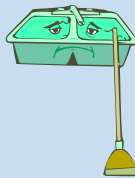
### Other causes of septic failure

- Overloading. Use water sparingly. Do only full loads of wash at off-peak times, if possible, and try to limit the number of loads daily.
- Placement in poor drainage area
- Water leaks
- Driving over the drainfield



### Other causes of septic failure

- Pouring kitchen grease into drains
- Failure to install according to septic codes
- Flushing cigarette butts, sanitary napkins or other inorganic materials down the toilet



### Other causes of septic failure

- Extensive use of garbage disposals
- Tree roots clogging pipes - contact a septic contractor for repairs
- Use of salts and chemicals from water softeners and washing machines



### What about additives?

- Enough bacteria are present in the tank from normal bodily wastes
- Additives cost \$\$\$ and may actually increase the solid material in the tank by producing inert ingredients
- There is no substitute for pumping!

### Tips to keep your septic system working well

- Don't water the leachfield
- Don't flood the system with excessive water use
- Keep excess solids out of the system and avoid flushing toxins down the drain

### Tips to keep your septic system working well

- Avoid using your garbage disposal to process large quantities of wastes
- Regularly pump out the septic tank and inspect the physical components of the system
- Don't park or drive over the leachfield

### Avoid products with the following warnings on the labels:



- "Harmful if swallowed"
- "Avoid contact with the skin"
- "Do not get in open cuts or sores"
- "If product comes in contact with eyes, call a physician immediately"

***Always read the product label!***

***These tips will keep your system working properly for generations.***

