

## Other Types of Systems

### Other treatment units

There are several other treatment units available for approval under the Ontario Building Code.

New technologies include devices or filters that provide treatment of sewage either in conjunction with a conventional septic tank or with an aeration chamber. The new technologies generally provide improved effluent quality.

These sewage systems may require soil bases that may be smaller than those required for conventional systems, making them a potential option for use on small or difficult sites.

### Leaching Pits

Leaching (grey water) pits may be allowed for low water flow conditions in remote areas. Confirm with the NBMCA before construction as a sewage system permit is required.

### Pit privies & Composting toilets

Pit privies (outhouses) or composting toilets may also be used, but must meet current standards. Leaching pits are required in combination with pit privies or composting toilets.

Composting toilets with drains must be connected to a cesspool (drainage pit). A sewage system permit is required for construction of the cesspool.

### Holding Tanks

New holding tank installations are not permitted. There are a few specific situations where holding tanks can be permitted. Contact NBMCA to determine if your situation meets these exceptions.

## Did you know?

### Renovations

If you are enlarging or renovating your home or cottage in the Nipissing - Parry Sound District, approval of the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) may be required to ensure that your existing sewage system can accommodate the potential increase of sewage flow.

Contact the NBMCA for further information and/or a sewage system permit application.



**NORTH BAY-MATTAWA  
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Additional sources of information on sewage systems:

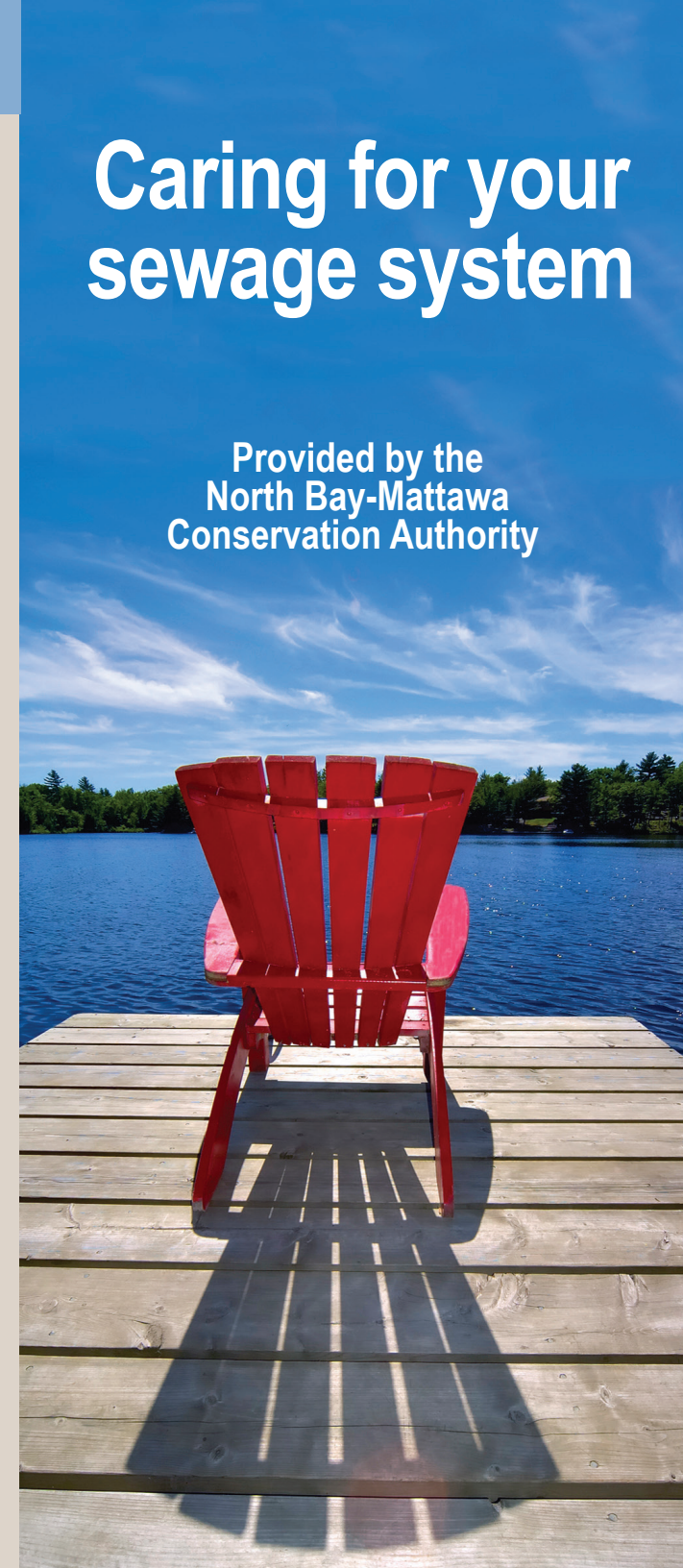
North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority  
[www.nbmca.ca/planning-permits/on-site-sewage-system-septic-permits/](http://www.nbmca.ca/planning-permits/on-site-sewage-system-septic-permits/)

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre  
[www.uoguelph.ca/orwc](http://www.uoguelph.ca/orwc)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
[www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx)

# Caring for your sewage system

Provided by the  
North Bay-Mattawa  
Conservation Authority



# Your sewage system is your responsibility!

Your sewage system is a sewage treatment facility. It requires careful attention to design, construction and maintenance.

With proper knowledge and care of your sewage system, you will be contributing to the protection of the ground and surface waters that are so important to all who share the memorable experiences of northeastern Ontario.

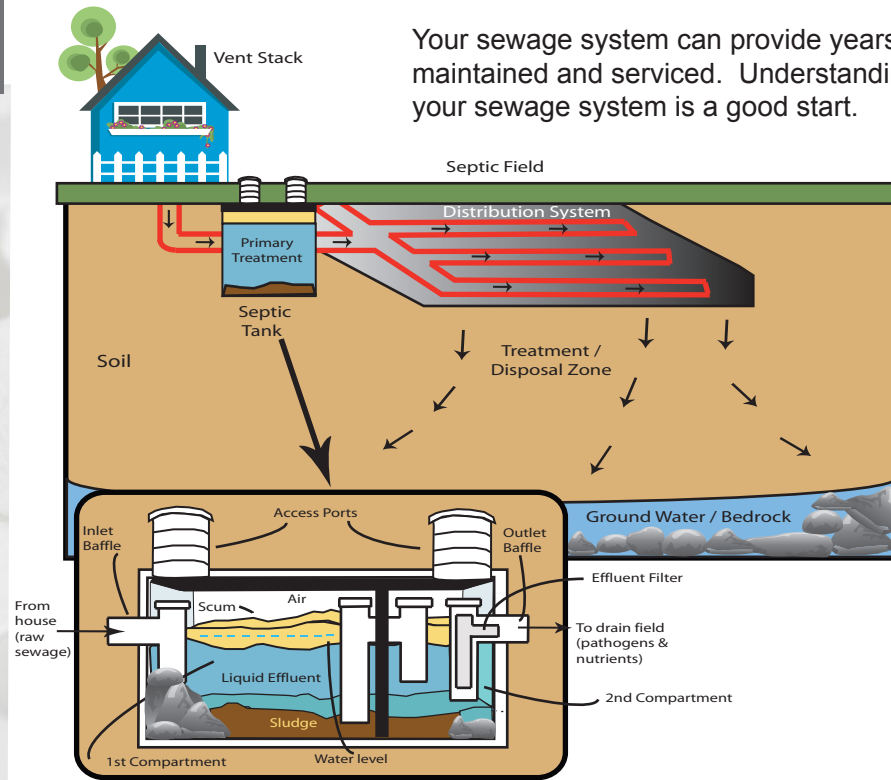
In addition, a sewage system built to current standards and maintained properly may:

- enhance the value of your property;
- prevent costly replacement or repairs;
- help protect our environment and health by reducing the risk of surface and ground water contamination.

In Ontario, the specifications for construction and maintenance of sewage systems (with a design daily sewage flow of less than 10,000 litres per day) are regulated under the Ontario Building Code. Sewage system permits in most areas of Nipissing and Parry Sound districts are issued by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA).

# Your sewage system: an overview

Your sewage system can provide years of use provided it is properly maintained and serviced. Understanding the components that create your sewage system is a good start.



## Leaching bed

- Divert surface runoff and roof drains away from the leaching bed area.
- Avoid compaction of soil over the leaching bed by vehicles, heavy equipment or materials.
- Ensure that unsaturated, porous soil is present under the leaching bed pipes.
- Avoid heavy lawn watering in or near a leaching bed area.
- Maintain access to sunlight in the leaching bed area to encourage evaporation.
- Check for wet spots or uneven lush vegetation growth on areas over leaching bed pipes which may indicate poor distribution of effluent.

## Septic Tank

- Have scum and sludge level checked yearly.
- Have baffles checked and replaced if necessary.
- Have tank pumped every 2-3 years.
- Have tank replaced if made of steel or too small.

## Other Components

- Locate all pump chambers and ensure that pumps and alarms are working properly.
- Service treatment units and effluent filters as prescribed by the manufacturer.
- Ensure privies, composting toilets and greywater pits are constructed and maintained to current standards.

# What can you do to protect your sewage system?



- Obtain and/or review your existing sewage system permit. If you have any questions, contact NBMCA.
- Keep accurate records of pumping, maintenance and repair, including a sketch of your sewage system.
- Use low flush toilets and low flow showerheads and promptly repair any leaking plumbing fixtures.
- Ensure all fixture drains are connected properly to the sewage system.
- Do not put paint, petroleum products, grease or pesticides down the drain.
- Flush only toilet tissue. Anything else (tampons, diapers, cigarette butts, etc..) may clog the system.
- Avoid high water flows that may overload the sewage system.
- Have an effluent filter installed and maintained.
- Grow grass or other shallow rooted vegetation on top of your leaching bed to prevent soil erosion.
- Ensure that renters or guests are aware of your sewage system and its proper use.