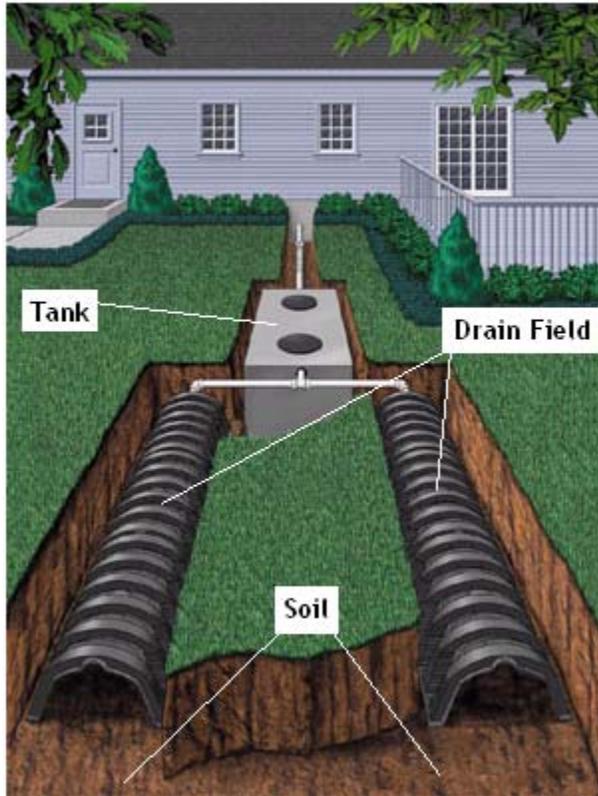


# A Guide to Septic Systems

## What Is a Septic System?

There are a number of different septic systems, each with its own design. The conventional system is the one most commonly used in Georgia. It consists of three main parts: the septic tank, the drain field, and the soil beneath the drain field.



Septic systems are typically used in rural areas, where access to public sanitary sewers is limited.

## What Legal Requirements Regulate Septic Systems?

State law requires that soil be evaluated by the local health department and that a permit be issued before house construction begins, or the septic system is installed or repaired.

Local Augusta-Richmond County regulations require that any property located within 200 feet of a public sanitary sewer pipe be connected to the sewer system, and not use a septic system (Title 5, Section 5-2-6).

## Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System

- Do not put too much water into the septic system; typical water use is about 50 gallons per day for each person in the family.
- Do not add materials (chemicals, sanitary napkins, or applicators) other than domestic wastewater.
- Restrict the use of your garbage disposal.
- Do not pour grease or cooking oils down the sink drain.
- Make a diagram showing the location of your tank drain field and repair area.
- Install a watertight concrete riser over the septic tank to simplify access.
- Periodically have the solids pumped out of the septic tank.
- Maintain adequate vegetative cover over the drain field.
- Keep surface waters away from the tank and drain field.
- Keep automobiles and heavy equipment off the system.
- Do not plan any building additions, pools, driveways, or other construction work near the septic system or the repair area.

*If you have any questions, contact the  
Augusta Engineering Department  
522 Greene Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30901  
706-821-1706*