

TOPIC: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Overview

Septic systems, when properly designed, installed, and maintained, can provide high quality effluent treatment for residential and commercial sewage. However, many septic systems in use today were installed long ago, before there was a good understanding of how to properly design an effective and environmentally-friendly system. Considerations include appropriate sizing to meet the usage demands for the site, the strength of waste, and soil limitations. The soil type and characteristics impact a septic system's efficacy and some sites are simply not conducive to an environmentally-safe septic system. This includes sites located within floodplains. Additionally, when septic systems fail, untreated effluent can lead to elevated E.coli levels in our waterways. This increases the potential for serious health-related issues, as well as nutrient enrichment due to excessive phosphorus and nitrogen.

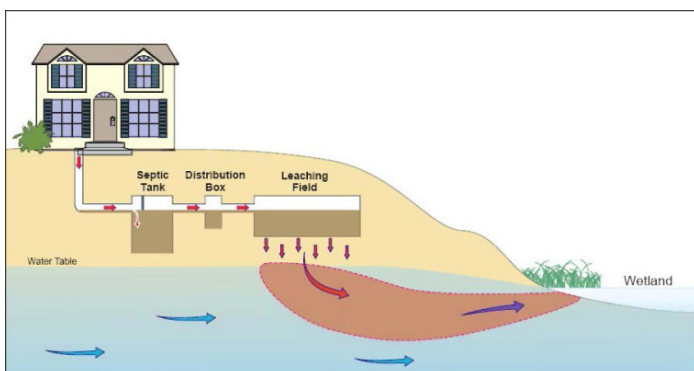
Impacts on Our Water

Septic systems that have been incorrectly designed, installed, or maintained over the years can impact water quality. Older systems and those located in floodplains are also issues; they have the most potential to be detrimental to our waterways. Any nutrients or pathogens that are not removed through either pre-treatment or natural treatment of the soil can reach surface waterways or groundwater.

More Information

<http://marionhealth.org/onsite-sewage-septic-systems-program/>

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Typical pathway for effluent to reach our water ways



An algae bloom typical to nutrient enrichment