

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



What kinds of systems are inspected as part of this program?

This program will include inspections of all five (5) classes of on-site sewage systems, as regulated by the Ontario Building Code (Part 8). Some key details can be found below:

Classes of on-site sewage systems	Characteristics of system	How to prepare for your inspection
Class 1: Privy, Outhouse, Composting Toilet, Incinerating Toilet	Only accepts human waste.	Ensure structure is vermin-proof (no possible access for mice, etc., into pit through doors/walls/windows) and that the pit is not exposed at grade.
Class 2: Greywater Systems	Only accepts greywater (wastewater that excludes human waste).	Ensure that there are no illegal discharges from the system and the system does not receive human waste.
Class 3: Cesspools	Only receives human waste, often used as overflow for composting toilets.	Ensure that there are no illegal discharges from the system and the system only receives human waste.
Class 4: Septic Tank and Leaching Bed	Most common system: septic tank retains solids while liquid waste moves through leaching bed (also known as tile bed or filter bed). Tank is typically pumped every 3-5 years. System may have pumping tanks or other components.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expose both septic tank lids. Expose pump tank lids. Contact WSP if you require your permit file to locate these components. Maintain short manicured grass on your leaching bed surface.
Class 4: With Advanced Treatment Unit	Similar to a standard Class 4, with additional treatment tank(s), serviced annually, will often include blowers/aeration.	Ensure that your Maintenance Servicing Agreement is current, and that a copy is readily available on-site for the inspection.
Class 5: Holding Tank	Tank is pumped frequently (typically multiple times each year) or before it fills. There is no discharge to the environment.	Expose the tank lid(s) and ensure your holding tank system has: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A high level alarm. A haulage agreement with a local pumper.

Frequently asked questions have been provided on the reverse of this page for reference. For any further inquiries, please contact WSP at mh.info@wsp.com or 289-984-0448.

SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION FAQs



<p>Why inspect septic systems?</p>	<p>Septic re-inspections can provide system owners with advice on how to ensure the system has a long and useful life as well as being proactive with respect to environmental/lake water protection.</p>
<p>What if I have a metal tank?</p>	<p>It is recommended that you apply for a permit of a replacement system prior to the booking deadline. If your holding tank, septic tank or pumping tank is made of metal, they are prone to corrosion and are structurally unsafe. Ensure that the area is kept marked-off and that any attempts to dig to expose the tanks are done so with health and safety considerations. If you do not apply for a permit of a replacement system prior to the deadline, your system will require an inspection. Metal tanks require replacement; your inspection results will provide you with a remedial action letter indicating your next steps.</p>
<p>What if I can only be there on a weekend?</p>	<p>As your presence is required for the inspection (or a representative over the age of 18), you should contact WSP prior to the booking deadline to ensure you can be scheduled for a time that works for you. If you do not contact WSP before the booking deadline, WSP will assign a time to your property which may not suit personalized schedules.</p>
<p>What happens if I miss my inspection?</p>	<p>If you do not cancel your inspection more than 48 hours before it is booked and you are not present or not prepared when WSP arrives during your inspection window, an Extra Inspection Fee will apply.</p>
<p>Do I have to pump my septic tank before the inspection?</p>	<p>No, WSP does not require the septic tank to be pumped prior to the inspection.</p>
<p>What if I have an old system that I no longer use? (i.e. Outhouse)?</p>	<p>All Classes of septic systems must be inspected if they are still in a state that could possibly be used; this can include an old outhouse being used as a storage shed, or a septic tank that still has plumbing connecting the system to the building and is not decommissioned.</p>
<p>What is considered “sufficient clearance to remove lid(s)”?</p>	<p>The earth must be removed above the lid(s) and a perimeter large enough for the inspector to use a crowbar to shift or lift the lid(s) off, approximately 1 square meter (10 square feet). If the lid(s) are under a deck then there must be a hatch installed or planks removed to allow the inspector vertical space above the lids to complete the inspection fully, approximately 2 meters (6.5 feet).</p>
<p>What type of system do I have? Where are the lid(s) located?</p>	<p>Contacting the Township of Minden Hills or WSP for permit details is one method for determining what system is present. If the location of the tank lid(s) is unknown then locate the outlet pipe from the house; the septic tank typically begins a minimum of 1.5 meters (5 feet) from that point and the lids may be buried between 0.3 meters to 1 meter under the soil. Look for disturbed or dead patches of grass, or call a pumper, plumber or septic installer.</p>