



## Care and Maintenance of a Septic Tank

The septic tank whether it operates alone or in connection with a treatment system requires an inspection at least every two years and to be pumped at least every 3-4 years. Visual inspections will indicate when the sludge in the tank is approaching the 1/3 full level in the first compartment. This indicator identifies the need for the sludge to be removed in order to prevent suspended solids from leaving the tank and potentially causing problems further down in the treatment process.

**Never enter a septic tank for any reason!** Noxious gases are present which are heavier than oxygen. Death may result to anyone who comes in contact with these fumes. Only a qualified and licensed professional should perform inspections or enter a septic tank.

Keep water use reasonable. Only use appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines that incorporate water conservation measures in their design. Use full loads only to reduce quantity of use. Ice machines that use a continual flow of water should be identified at the time of design, as they will increase the required size of the septic system. Ensure that all showerheads, toilets, and sinks and 'low-flow' devices are not leaky!

Minimize the use of spas and hot tubs as they contain large volumes of water that may flush solids out of a septic tank. Food waste disposals are not recommended for septic tanks as larger solids are deposited into the septic tank and do not deteriorate into sludge.

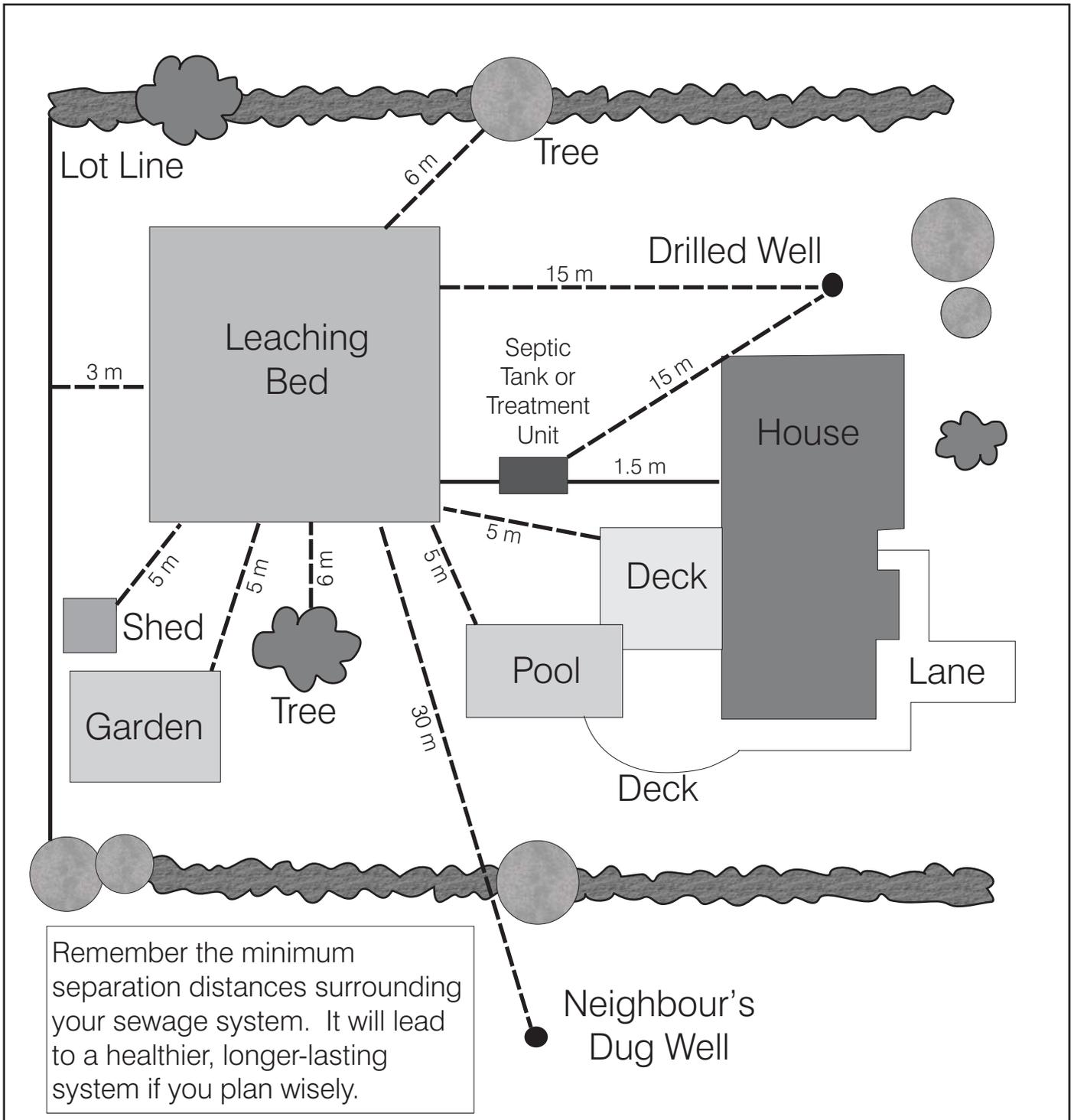
A septic tank is not a garbage disposal. Keep the following items out of the septic tank:

water softener backwash	pesticides or herbicides
paints- all kinds	sump pump discharge
solvents, volatile organics	eavestrough runoff
grease - commercial and industrial	pumped foundation drainage
coffee grounds	cosmetic products
bones	industrial cleansers, ex. Lye
cooking fats and oils	film developing chemicals
cigarette butts	floor drains -residential or industrial
disposable diapers	palm oil
paper towels	large volumes of olive oil
facial tissue	excessive use of hair gels,
sanitary pads and tampons	conditioners, etc.
condoms	anti-dandruff or medicated shampoo
disposable gloves	dead pets
bleach pucks	carpet or upholstery cleansers
antibacterial products	expired or unused medications
detergent with dry bleach crystals	disinfectants, germicides
peppermint oils	bandages, cotton swabs

Please note that all persons undergoing any form of medical radiation treatments, or possessing any form of irregular immune system response will affect the health of a septic tank.

Any further questions or concerns regarding the health of your septic tank can be directed to Waterloo Biofilter Systems Inc., or your local sewage system installer and hauler.

# Planning your lot and on-site sewage system



Note: Setback from seasonal high water mark = 15 m



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on-site wastewater treatment

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