



SEPTIC Do's and Don'ts

If you take good care of your system, you will save yourself the time, money and worries involved in replacing a failed system. Failed systems can be hazardous to the environment and your pocketbook. It can degrade water supplies and reduce you property value.

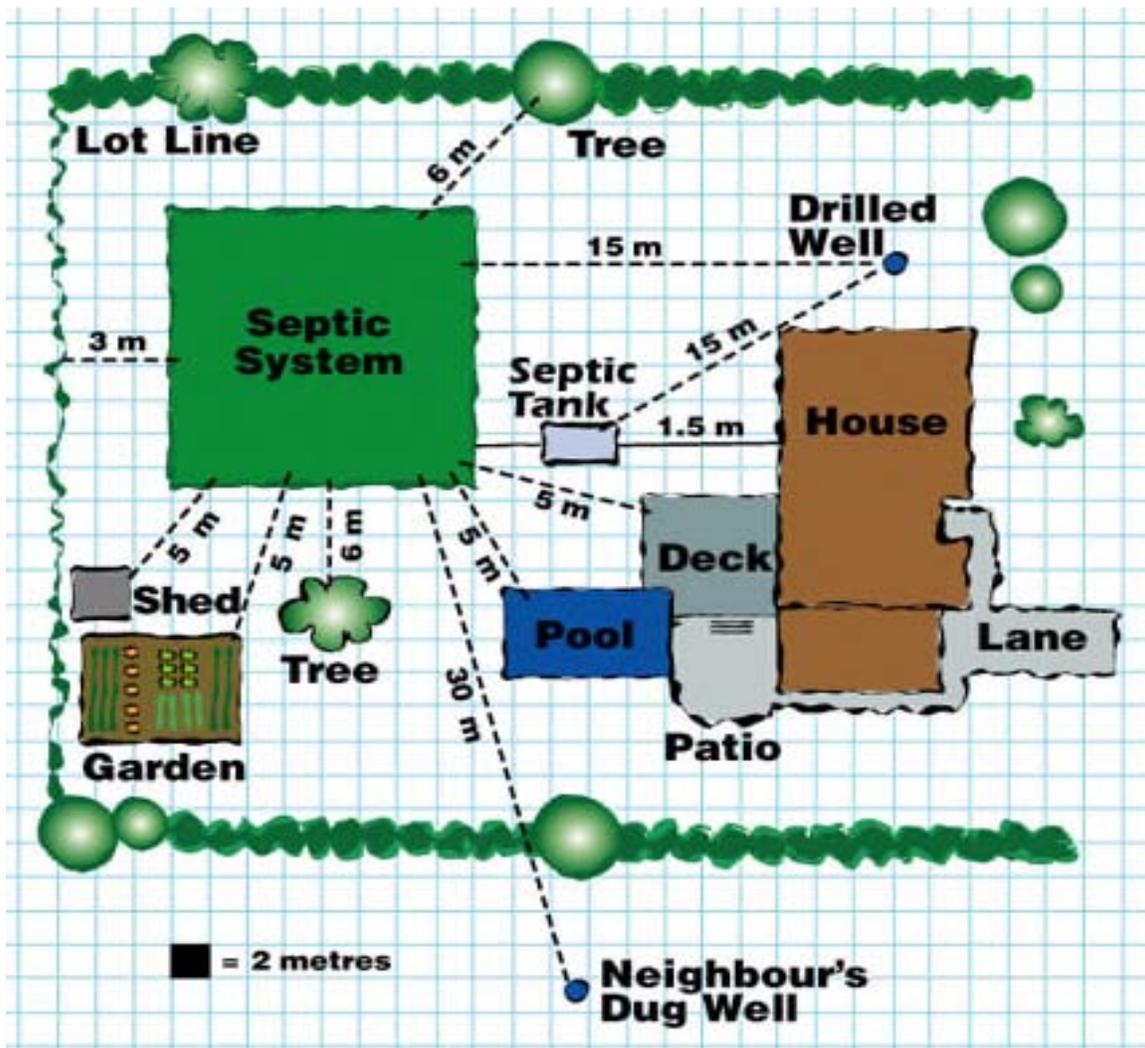
Here are some valuable tips to ensure the longevity of you system:

DO	DON'T
do familiarize yourself with the location of your system	don't flush hazardous chemicals, paint, cigarette butts or sanitary products
do keep an "as built" system diagram in a safe place for reference	don't use a garbage disposal or garburator
do divert surface water away from your leaching bed	don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed
do pump out your tank on a regular basis (3-5 years)	don't use special additives that are touted to enhance the performance of your tank or system
do repair leaky plumbing fixtures	don't dig without knowing the location of your septic system
do conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated	don't drive over your tank or leaching bed
do replace old toilets with low-flush models	don't enter a tank - gases and lack of oxygen can be <u>fatal</u>
do keep lint out of your septic system by cleaning the lint filter on your washing machine	don't connect rain gutters, storm drains or allow surface water to drain into a sewage system
do keep the tank access lid secure to the riser all the time	don't leave interior faucets on the protect water lines during cold spells — insulate your faucets and plumbing
do keep accurate records of septic system maintenance and service calls	don't connect water softeners to your system, as the salt content can destroy the bacteria required and can overload the system when backwashing

for more information on septic systems and their care please visit our web site www.oowa.org

Separation Distances

There are minimum separation distances required under the Ontario Building Code surrounding your system and other home and yard items. Remembering these distances and planning your lot accordingly will lead to a healthier, longer-lasting system.



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Information provided courtesy of the Ottawa Septic System Office