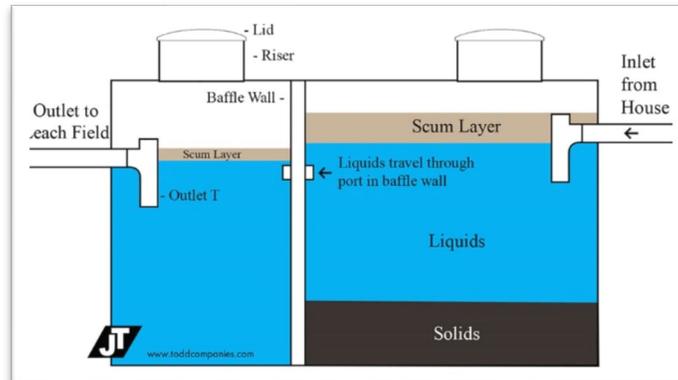


How a Septic System Works

A septic system is an On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) that is designed to keep you from having to use a shovel in the back yard! This means that all drains in your house lead to a small concrete (or plastic) container buried in your yard called a **Septic Tank**.



Some systems
septic tanks
in size
how many
used in the

use multiple
which can vary
depending on
gallons will be
house. This

diagram shows a basic two compartment, single septic tank system. The septic tank has two compartments: a larger compartment where all of the solids (i.e. feces, toilet paper, all the fun stuff) are held, and a small compartment that is used to hold the water that is separated from the solids. This is a key process; otherwise your septic tank would fill up in under a month with how much water is being used.

The two compartments are separated by a **Baffle Wall**. Over time, all of the solids sink to the bottom of the first compartment, while the water floats above it. After a while, a "scum layer" will develop on top of the water, containing everything that is lighter than water and floats (Fats, oils, grease, etc.). The purpose of the baffle wall is to keep both the solids and the scum layer in the first compartment while letting the water flow on into the second compartment.

After the water is separated from the solids, it flows down an outlet pipe to the **Soil Treatment Area** (also known as an STA or Leach Field). There are many types of STAs and there are many ways of getting the water to the STA. Some use gravity and flow "downhill" to the STA and others use a pump system to get the water there. An STA is similar to an irrigation system (just underground) and helps to distribute the water across a specific amount of soil. Once the water is distributed into the soil, bacteria will eat all of the small particles of septage (all the dirty particles) and by the time the water reaches the aquifer it will be pure again. The size of STA (and size of septic tank) is determined by how many bedrooms are in your house. The more bedrooms, whether occupied or not, leaves potential for another person to be using more water.

The STA takes care of the water, but what about the solids? If the solids build up too high in your tank they will flow into the second compartment, and from there to the STA where it can plug the pipes and not let water drain out. When this happens the water will find the path of least resistance, which is usually back into your home! To save yourself from needing an emergency pumping or having to install a new STA, we recommend having your system pumped every 2-4 years depending on use.

For more information call 303-791-0520
or email info@toddcompanies.com

 **John Todd Co.**
Septic Solutions Since 1945