

## How do I get a Soil Study?

You will find a short list of ARCPAC/IRSS Certified Soil Scientist within the application packet, or you may visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at [www.ISDH.gov](http://www.ISDH.gov) for a complete listing of Indiana's Registered Soil Scientists.

## Where can I find a qualified Contractor or Installer?

Rush County does not endorse any Installer or Excavator; however, you may visit [www.IOWPA.com](http://www.IOWPA.com), for a list of Contractors who are Certified in the Indiana Rule for Installation.

## What does the Permit cost?

For New Construction, your permit will cost \$250.

For Repair or Replacement of an existing system, your permit will cost \$100.

Your Permit is good for one year, from the time that it is issued.

## Can I do the work myself?

No, in most cases the homeowner is not qualified to do the work. The Onsite Septic System installation or repair, is more than a "Do It Yourself" project. You must hire a qualified Installer to meet the requirements of the Indiana State Department of Health and Rush County Health Department, under 410 IAC 6-8.3.

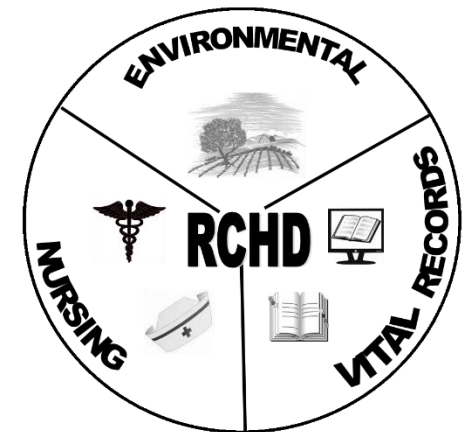
# Simple Steps to maintain your Onsite Septic System

- Locate your septic tank and field. If your home was built after 1966, you may find a drawing on file at the Rush County Health Department.
- Have your Septic Tank pumped every 3-5 years.
- Do not dispose of household trash in sinks or toilets.
- Never flush feminine products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, or household chemicals.
- Fix leaky fixtures and spread your laundry loads throughout the week, so as not to overload the septic system with ALL of your laundry, one day a week.
- Keep all vehicles and livestock off of the septic system and drain field.
- Make sure roof gutters, sump pumps, and water softeners, do not discharge to the septic system.
- Only plant grass on or near your septic system. Trees and shrub roots could make their way into the system and create the need for costly repairs.

# Rush County Health Department

## Understanding Your Septic System

*Rush County  
Health Department*



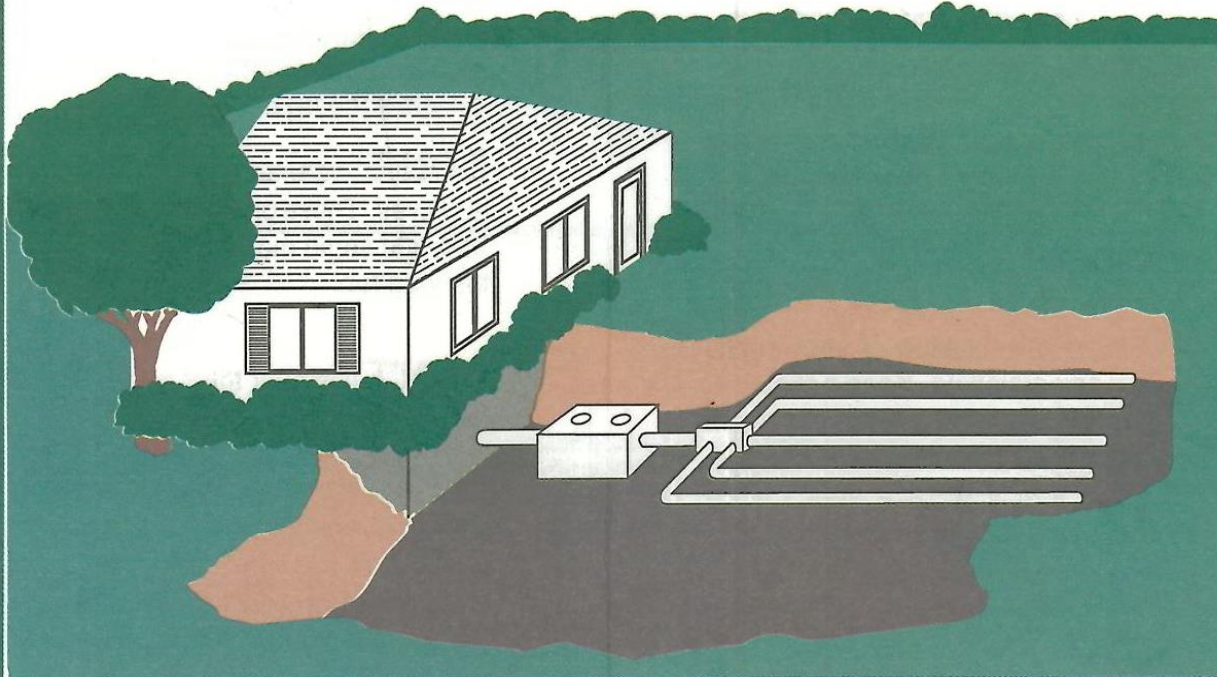
*Committed to Community Service*

**Rush County Health Department  
Courthouse, Room 105  
Rushville, IN 46173**

**Telephone: (765) 932-3103  
Fax: (765) 938-2604**

# What is an Onsite Septic System?

## *A Conventional Septic System*



A **septic system** consists of a **septic tank**, a **distribution box** and a **drainfield**, all connected by pipes, called **conveyance lines**.

Your septic system treats your household wastewater by temporarily holding it in the **septic tank** where heavy solids and lighter scum are allowed to separate from the wastewater. This separation process is known as **primary treatment**. The solids stored in the tank are decomposed by bacteria and later removed, along with the lighter scum, by a professional septic tank pumper.

After the partially treated wastewater leaves the tank, it flows into a **distribution box**, which separates this flow evenly into a network of **drainfield trenches**. Drainage holes at the bottom of each line allow the wastewater to drain into gravel trenches for temporary storage. This **effluent** then slowly seeps into the subsurface soil where it is further treated and purified (**secondary treatment**). A properly functioning septic system does not pollute the groundwater.

1990, Northern Virginia Planning District Commission

## Do I need a Permit?

Yes, you do. Under Indiana Law, if you are building a new home, or your home has a septic system and you discover a problem, you must call the Rush County Health Department at (765) 932-3103 and obtain a Permit.

## What is the process to obtain a Permit from Rush County?

- Pick up an application from our office, or download the Application Packet for Onsite Sewage Systems from the Rush County website at [www.rushcounty.IN.gov](http://www.rushcounty.IN.gov), under County Offices – Health Department.
- Fill out the application and submit it.
- Have a Soil Study completed by a qualified Soil Scientist and submit to the Health Department.
- Choose a qualified Contractor or Installer.
- Meet at the site with your Installer and the Environmental Health Specialist.
- Have your Installer submit a drawing of the proposed system, for approval.
- Pay the Permit fee to the Rush County Health Department.
- Pick up your Permit, before breaking ground.
- Be sure to schedule your job with the Environmental Health Specialist **5 days in advance**.