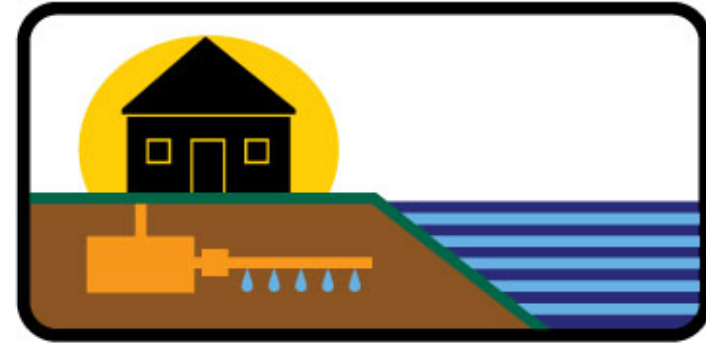
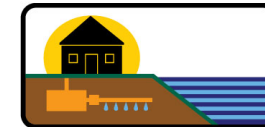




Community Onsite Septic Inspection Program



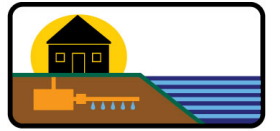
ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
— **COMMUNITY ONSITE** —
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM



What is a Septic System?

- Septic systems provide onsite treatment and disposal of household waste through a variety of natural processes
- Holding tanks provide onsite storage of household sanitary waste until it can be transported offsite for disposal



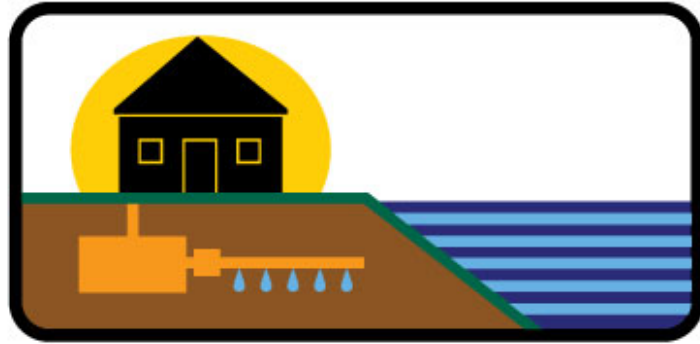


What Types of Septic Systems are There?

- Class 1 - Portable toilets, composting toilets, privy, incinerating toilet, etc
- Class 2 - Grey water system
- Class 3 - Cess pool
- Class 4 - Leaching bed & septic tank, this includes tertiary or advanced treatment systems
- Class 5 - Holding Tank

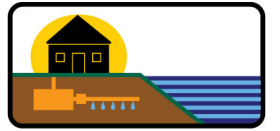
The Ontario Building Code requires that all private sewage systems be properly maintained.

How Did We Get Here?



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
— **COMMUNITY ONSITE** —
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

- Prior to 2020 private sewage systems were regulated by the Huron County Health Unit
- The Health Unit proposed a maintenance inspection program in 2011, which was not adopted at that time
- In 2020, the Township took over private sewage systems, collaborating with residents, installers, and haulers, they decided a septic inspection program was necessary for safe operation and maintenance
- The program was introduced in August 2022, and a By-law was passed in February 2024 to begin inspections

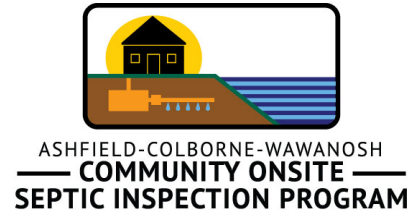


Why Have My Septic Inspected?

- To help preserve the environment and natural resources within the Township
- Aid in keeping our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwaters free from pollution
- Save money from costly repairs or replacement by being educated and learning maintenance of your septic system to extend its service life
- Learn what to plan for if replacement or major repairs are needed in the future
- Receive a septic information package for location and maintenance records



When Will My System Be Inspected?

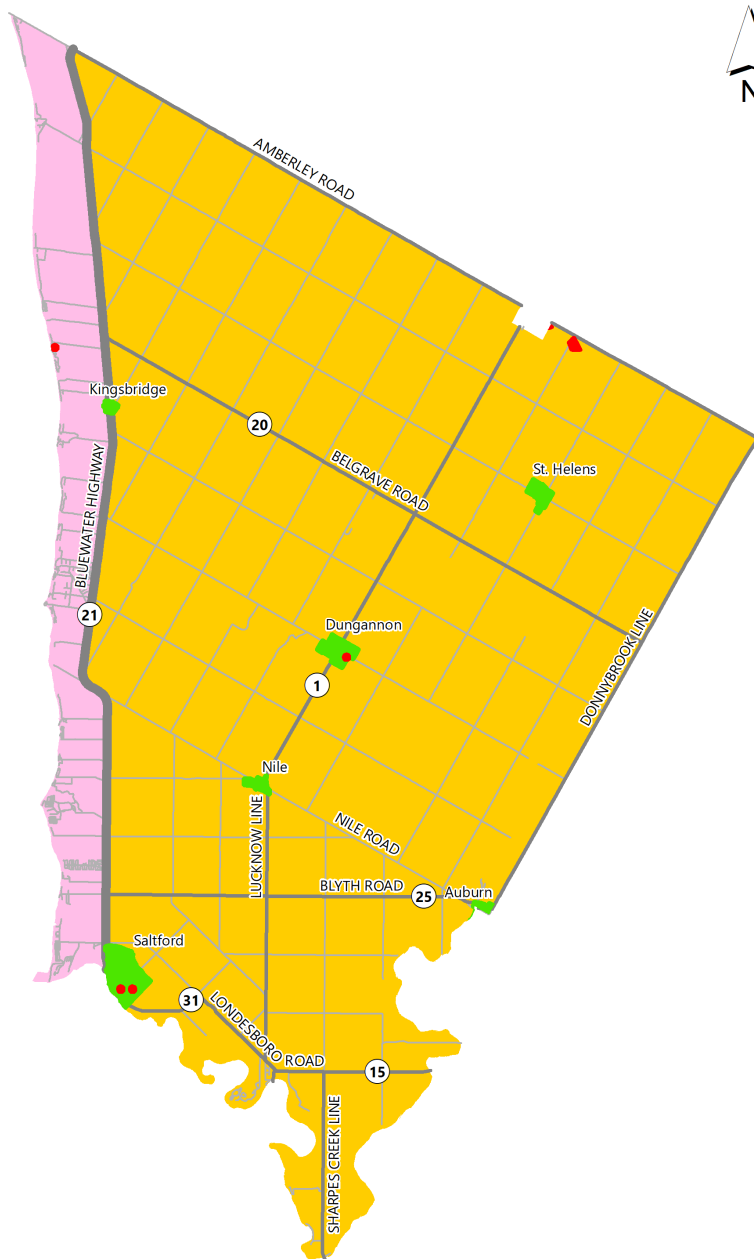


- The septic inspection program began in the summer of 2024
- All septic systems in the Township will be inspected starting on the lakeshore and working in land. (see next slide)
- Approximately 500 septic systems to be inspected per year

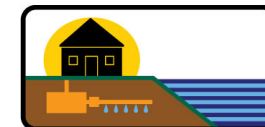


ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

Map of Cycle One Inspections



- First Stage: Lakeshore Areas Years 1-3 (Pink)
- Second Stage: Settlement Areas Year 4 (Green)
- Third Stage: Rural Areas Years 5-6 (Yellow)



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

Booking Inspections

All Township landowners with a septic system will receive a letter with inspection date and time in the mail

Residents are asked to fill out the information form provided in the letter and return to the Township

Residents may book alternate times for their inspection if the assigned day or time is not suitable.

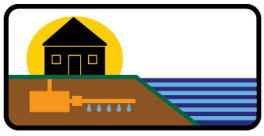
Missed or cancelled inspections without rebooking will be charged an additional fee



(519) 524-4669



building@acwtownship.ca



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

How to Prepare

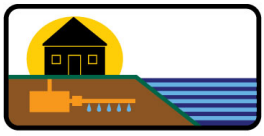


Complete the Landowner Information Form to the best of your ability and return to the Township or submit online at www.acwseptic.ca/forms prior to your inspection



Arrange to have yourself or a representative onsite for your appointed inspection time. A representative is required to be onsite to meet with the inspector for information sharing, documentation collection and education purposes





ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

For Inspection Day

🔑 Access to all sewage tank lids, including distribution boxes and pump chambers. Buried lids must be excavated prior to inspection time. The representative is responsible to remove the lids during the inspection. Most septic tanks have two lids

📏 Ensure approximately 2.5m vertical clearance is provided above septic tank lids

💡 Access to privies, outhouses and/or composting toilets

🚰 Provide an outdoor water source for the inspector to clean tools

🔔 Access to highwater alarm testing button if applicable

💧 Location of water source like a well or municipal water shut off

🐾 All pets must be inside or secured prior to and for the length of the inspection



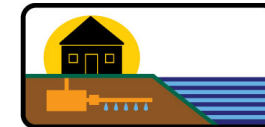


What Are We Checking For?

The program includes a visual inspection of the property with respect to:

- Type and number of buildings on the property
- Type of system being used
- Sample of sewage levels in tank
- Evidence of sewage effluent ponding
- Surface water or ground water flows toward the sewage system
- Tree or vegetation growth on the tile bed
- Location of the septic system
- Is all plumbing connected?
- Are alarms (if applicable) working?
- Proper venting
- Distance to well or water course
- Use GPS to record location of tank, bed, well





Inspection Process



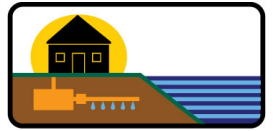
It is the responsibility of the Owner to have a representative onsite during the septic inspection, to meet with the Inspector.



The inspector will complete a visual inspection of the property and check levels, filters, and general operation of the system.



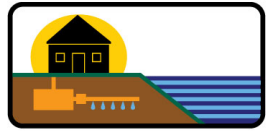
The inspector will discuss maintenance and best practices for the safe operation of an onsite Sewage System, as applicable to the Sewage System being inspected.



After the Inspection

- Following your onsite inspection, a report will be sent to the owner
 - If any actions are required or recommended, this will be noted in the report
 - Follow up inspections may be required
- A Septic Information Package will be sent later which will include details about your system
- A copy of both reports will be kept on file at the Municipal Office and additional copies will be available for \$150

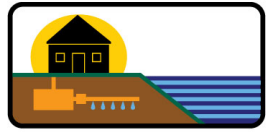




Charges & Fees

- There is no invoice associated with this inspection , as the charge is billed separately on your property tax bill
- Annual fee of \$55 for any system, except for a tertiary system which is a \$30 fee, no fee or inspection for systems 2021 or newer in cycle one
- Septic permits are required for repairs or replacement. Septic permit fees are waived for work on septic systems that are a part of the program.

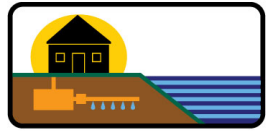




Physical Inspection Exemption



Tertiary or advanced treatment systems will not be inspected, provided an up to date Service and Maintenance Agreement and yearly maintenance reports have been submitted to the Township .



Typical Deficiencies and Resolutions

Solids are over a third full in the septic tank

- Have sewage hauler pump out tank and submit receipt to the Township

Highwater alarm is not working

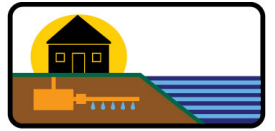
- Repair or replace and call the Township to have reinspected

Access lid is cracked or damaged

- Repair or replace and submit pictures of repair to the Township

No sewage hauling agreement for holding tank.

- Fill out Maintenance Agreement Template from acwseptic.ca/forms and submit to the Township



Typical Deficiencies and Resolutions

Inlet or outlet baffle
damaged or cracked

- Repair or replace baffle and provide pictures to the Township

Holding tank full.

- Have sewage hauler pump out tank and submit receipt to the Township

Wooden top of tank
decaying

- Have septic tank top replaced with access lids and call for reinspection

Cedar distribution bed
decaying and bed caving in

- Apply for permit to replace bed and have inspected by the Township



Typical Deficiencies and Resolutions

Steel septic tank
decaying and caving in

- Apply for permit to replace bed and have inspected by the Township.

Cracked plastic septic
tank

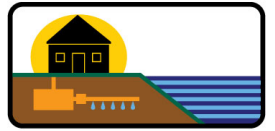
- Apply for permit to replace bed and have inspected by the Township.

Effluent not flowing out
of tank

- Make sure effluent filter is clean and maintained.
- If effluent filter is not the problem. Have the weeping bed cleaned out of any possible roots or clogs.
- May need to apply for a permit to repair or replace the weeping bed

Vegetation overgrown on
weeping bed

- Remove vegetation with invasive roots systems and re-landscape. Call the Township for reinspection.



Typical Deficiencies and Resolutions

Roots over growing in through lids, outlet or inlet

- Remove roots entering tank. Remove vegetation that is the source of invasive roots and call the Township for reinspection.

Effluent ponding over weeping bed

- Apply for permit to replace or repair bed and have inspected by the Township.

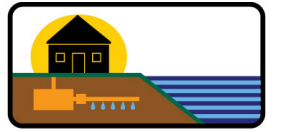
Effluent overflowing out of tank

- Make sure effluent filter is clean and maintained.
- If effluent filter is not the problem. Have the outlet or weeping bed cleaned out of any possible roots or clogs.
- May need to apply for a permit to repair or replace the weeping bed

Effluent level low in septic or holding tank

- Have a sewage hauler pump out tank.
- Apply for permit to replace or repair tank and have inspected by the Township.

FAQs



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

1. Do I need to install plastic lids and risers on my tank?

- It is recommended that risers be installed on all tanks where possible to gain access for maintenance on a regular basis.

2. Will I receive a reminder about my inspection?

- The Township sends out a booking letter as well as a reminder letter prior to your inspection date

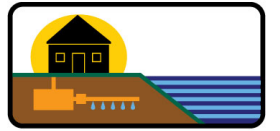
3. Is there financial assistance available?

- Currently there is no financial assistance programs available. The Township continues to explore ways to help owners that require assistance.

4. Is there a timeline for the repairs or replacement to be completed?

- The timeline of the replacement or repair depends on the severity of the situation.

FAQs



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

5. When are inspections being completed?

- Inspections are being ran early June through late September

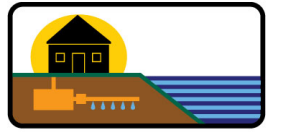
6. Can inspections be completed on the weekends?

- Monday to Friday, 8-4 is the normal working hours for the inspector apart from the odd Saturday. If you would like your inspection to be rebooked, possibly on the weekend, contact the Township.

7. Are there consequences for having an older system that is high risk?

- An old system with a high-risk rating doesn't necessarily mean immediate problems or required work. If it's operating as designed, there are no direct consequences. However, future repairs may be more likely, and planning for a new system is advisable, though not always necessary.

FAQs



ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
COMMUNITY ONSITE
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

9. Who is responsible for the repairs?

- The owner must hire a contractor or complete repairs themselves. They will determine the best solution and communicate it to the Township for approval. The Township will assist in bringing the system into compliance.

10. What happens if the contractor's opinions differ from the inspectors?

- The Township will try their best to resolve the issue, but ultimately the decision lies with the inspector.

11. Is there a fee for a permit to repair or replace my system?

- A permit is required for maintenance, repairs, or replacement, however the fee is waived.

Questions?

Contact us!



519-524-4669



cosip@acwtownship.ca





ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH
— COMMUNITY ONSITE —
SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

Additional Resources

<https://www.acwseptic.ca/>

[Homeowner Resources](#)

[Community Onsite Septic Inspection Program By-Law 05-2024](#)

[Septic \(Sewage\) System Do's and Don'ts](#)

[Proposed Community On-Site Inspection Program Information](#)