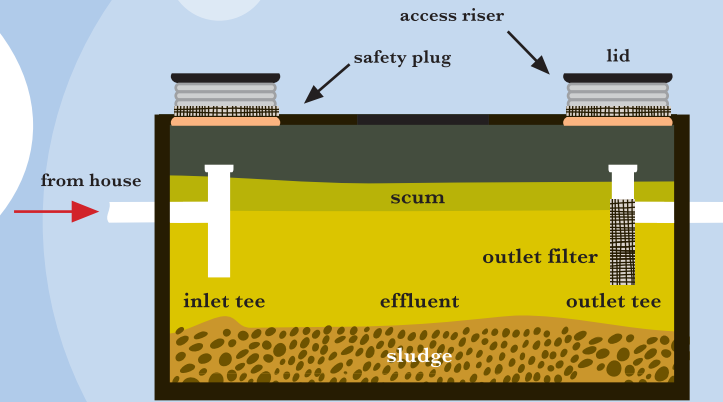


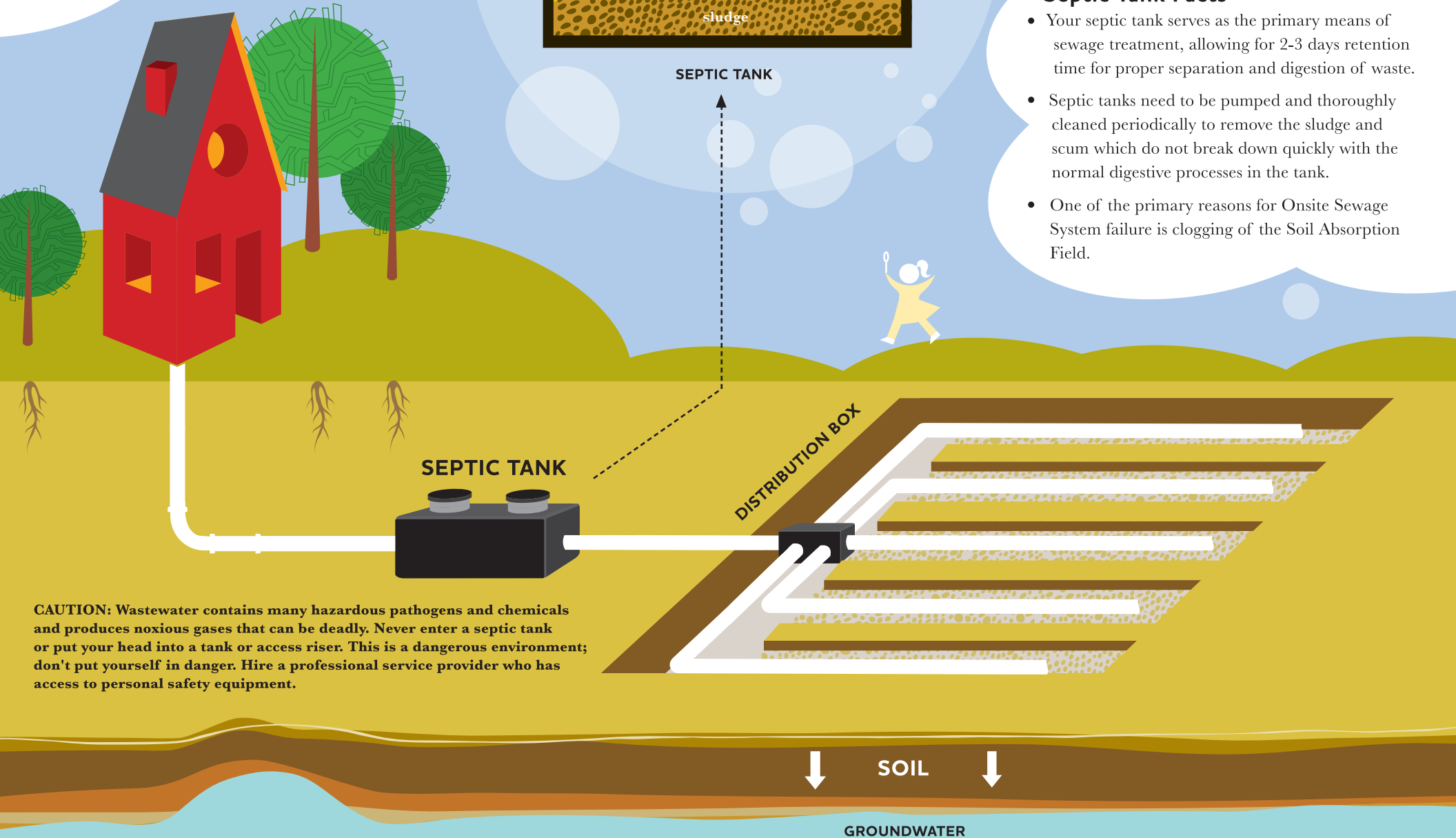
# Onsite Sewage System

An onsite sewage system is a complex system of tanks, pipes, and other components designed to take advantage of nature's biological processes to physically separate waste, distribute effluent to the soil, and remove harmful pathogens from wastewater prior to dispersing clean water back to the natural water cycle.



## Septic Tank Facts

- Your septic tank serves as the primary means of sewage treatment, allowing for 2-3 days retention time for proper separation and digestion of waste.
- Septic tanks need to be pumped and thoroughly cleaned periodically to remove the sludge and scum which do not break down quickly with the normal digestive processes in the tank.
- One of the primary reasons for Onsite Sewage System failure is clogging of the Soil Absorption Field.



**CAUTION:** Wastewater contains many hazardous pathogens and chemicals and produces noxious gases that can be deadly. Never enter a septic tank or put your head into a tank or access riser. This is a dangerous environment; don't put yourself in danger. Hire a professional service provider who has access to personal safety equipment.

## What is a septic tank outlet filter and why do I need one?

A septic tank outlet filter is a screening device that is installed in the outlet of a septic tank. Indiana law requires an outlet filter to be installed in all new septic tanks. A septic tank outlet filter protects the onsite system by filtering effluent as it leaves the septic tank, preventing solids and particulate matter from leaving and clogging the soil absorption field. The continued use and maintenance of the septic tank outlet filter protects the investment on your property.

## What is an access riser and why do I need one?

An access riser is installed over the access opening of a septic tank. Indiana law requires that an access riser be installed on all new septic tanks. The access riser must have a safely secured, watertight lid. Inside the riser is a secondary safety plug or device that is also required by Indiana law. The safety plug prevents accidental entry into the tank.

An access riser facilitates septic tank and outlet filter maintenance. Septic tank and outlet filter maintenance is necessary for increased onsite system longevity. The access riser helps the service provider easily locate the septic tank access port and prevents digging in the yard to locate and access the septic tank.

## When does my septic tank outlet filter need maintenance?

A properly working septic tank outlet filter will become clogged as effluent is filtered and leaves the septic tank. As the solid material progressively clogs more and more of the filter, the drains in the home will become sluggish and gurgling of drains is possible. When these indicators are noted in the home, it is time to maintain the outlet filter.

\*Check out the illustration on the other side to learn more about the location of typical onsite sewage system components.

The outlet filter needs to be maintained no less frequently than the septic tank is pumped and cleaned. Without timely maintenance of the outlet filter, backup of sewage into the home becomes a possibility.

## Who should I contact for maintenance of my outlet filter?

Maintenance of a septic tank outlet filter is a job best performed by a professional service provider. The maintenance requires personal safety equipment to protect the service provider from hazardous pathogens in the wastewater. The outlet filter must be removed from the septic tank, and the debris washed off so that it goes back into the septic tank. The outlet filter must be properly reinserted into its housing after cleaning.

***Regular maintenance is the best insurance that your onsite sewage system will operate for years to come.  
Protect your investment!***

### For additional information...

**Your local health department**  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/21953.htm>

**Indiana State Department of Health**  
<http://www.onsite.isdh.in.gov>

**Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA)**  
<http://iowpa.org>

**Purdue University**  
<https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/>

**National Association of Waste Transporters (NAWT)**  
<http://www.nawt.org>



# SEPTIC TANK Outlet Filters:

*Making your Onsite Sewage  
System Last*