

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS, septic) Regulations

OWTS Policy

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/

Regulation/standard for the permitting and operation of specific categories (includes residential) of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) in the state.

Provides for a waiver of waste discharge requirements for OWTS that meet Policy.

Local Agency Management Program (LAMP)

<https://countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/phd/PROGRAMS/EHS/CH%20EHS%20LAMP%20Plan%20Document.pdf>

Implements Tier 2 of the OWTS Policy. Addresses local conditions, providing alternative to, and superseding Tier 1 requirements not incorporated in LAMP.

Authorized by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and approved by the Regional Water Board.

County Code 18C

https://library.municode.com/ca/santa_barbara_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH18_CENHESE_ARTIONWATRSY

Appendix I of the LAMP – Code implementing LAMP – construction and permitting standards.

Approved by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. (Ord. No. 4909, § 2, 1-6-2015)

Estimated Cost to Install Supplemental Treatment System

- \$30,000 to \$70,000, depending on site conditions and the components required,
- Site constraints may increase costs above estimate,
- A repair meeting current requirements may not be feasible.

Operation and maintenance of a supplemental treatment system

- a. Operating permit (Permit renewal permit fee every 5 years = \$324),
- b. Service contract with qualified provider, inspections per manufacturer's requirements, generally every 6 months (\$800-1200/year),
- c. Effluent sampling, analyzed for total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5, five-day biochemical oxygen demand), and nitrogen series (Total nitrogen (as N)) (\$400/year),

Operation and maintenance of a supplemental treatment system cont.

- d. Pumping the septic tank or supplemental treatment tank (\$1,200 every 5 years),
- e. Adjustment, repair, or replacement of treatment components as needed,
- f. Electrical and communication/monitoring services charges



Estimated ongoing cost for OWTS with Supplemental Treatment

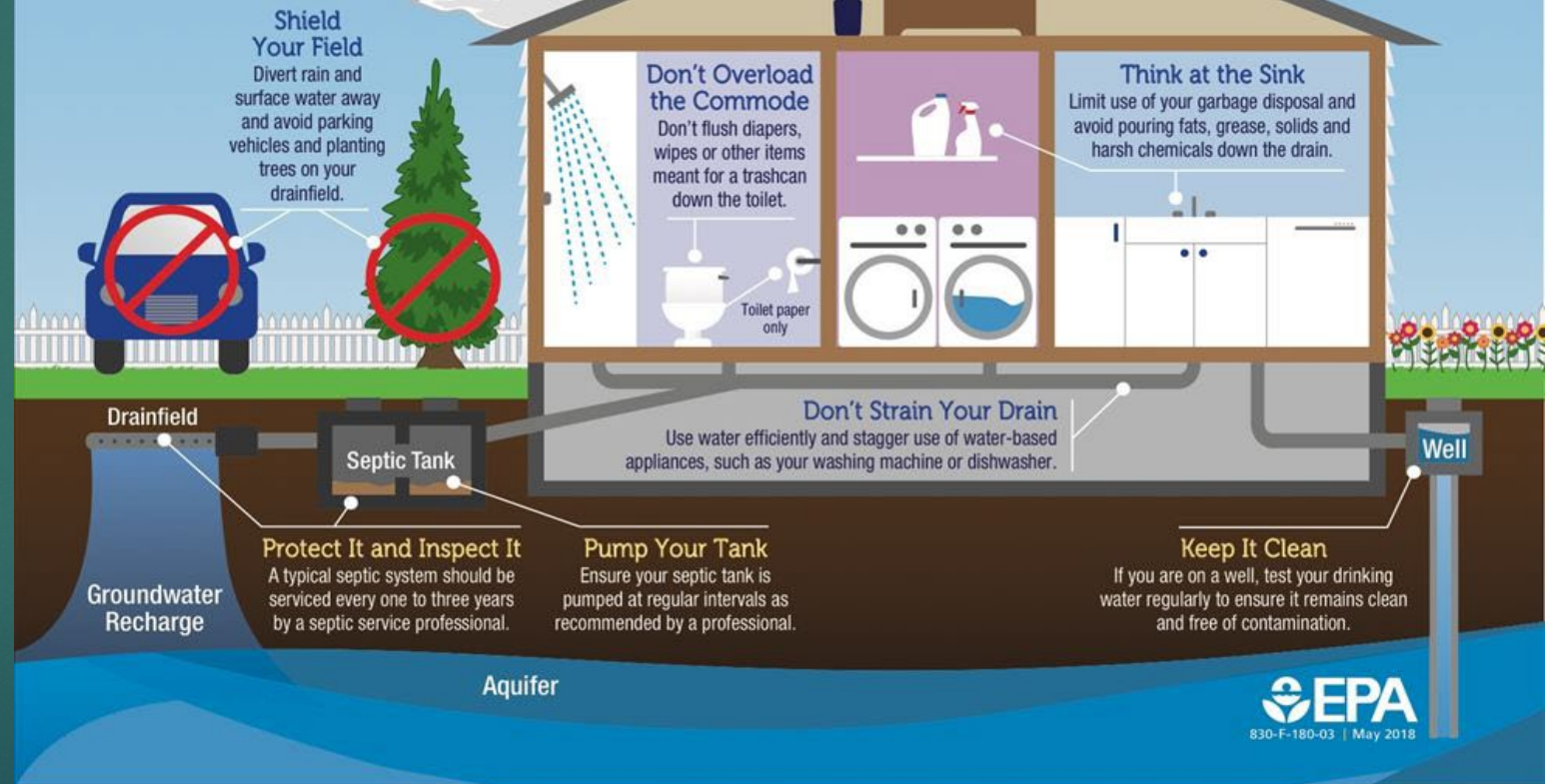
\$1,505 - \$1,905/year (or \$125-\$159 monthly)

*Does not include electrical/communication costs, or repairs to treatment system.

Setbacks

MINIMUM HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	BUILDING SEWER	SEPTIC TANK	DISPOSAL FIELD	SEEPAGE PIT (DRYWELL)
Building or Structure ¹	2 Feet	5 Feet	8 Feet	8 Feet
Property Line	Clear ²	5 Feet	5 Feet	8 Feet
Private Water Supply Well	50 Feet ³	100 Feet	100 Feet	150 Feet
Public Water Supply Well	50 Feet ³	100 Feet	150 Feet	See CA OWTS 9.4.10
Streams and other bodies of water	100 Feet	100 Feet ⁷	100 Feet ⁷	150 Feet ⁷
Trees ⁹	--	10 Feet	--	10 Feet
Seepage pits ⁸	--	5 Feet	5 Feet	12 Feet
Disposal Field ⁸	--	5 Feet	4 Feet ⁴	5 Feet
Distribution box	--	--	5 Feet	5 Feet
On-Site Domestic Water Service Line	1 Foot ⁵	5 Feet	5 Feet	5 Feet
Pressure public water main ⁶	10 Feet Horizontal & 1 Foot Vertical	25 Feet	25 Feet	25 Feet

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!



<https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>

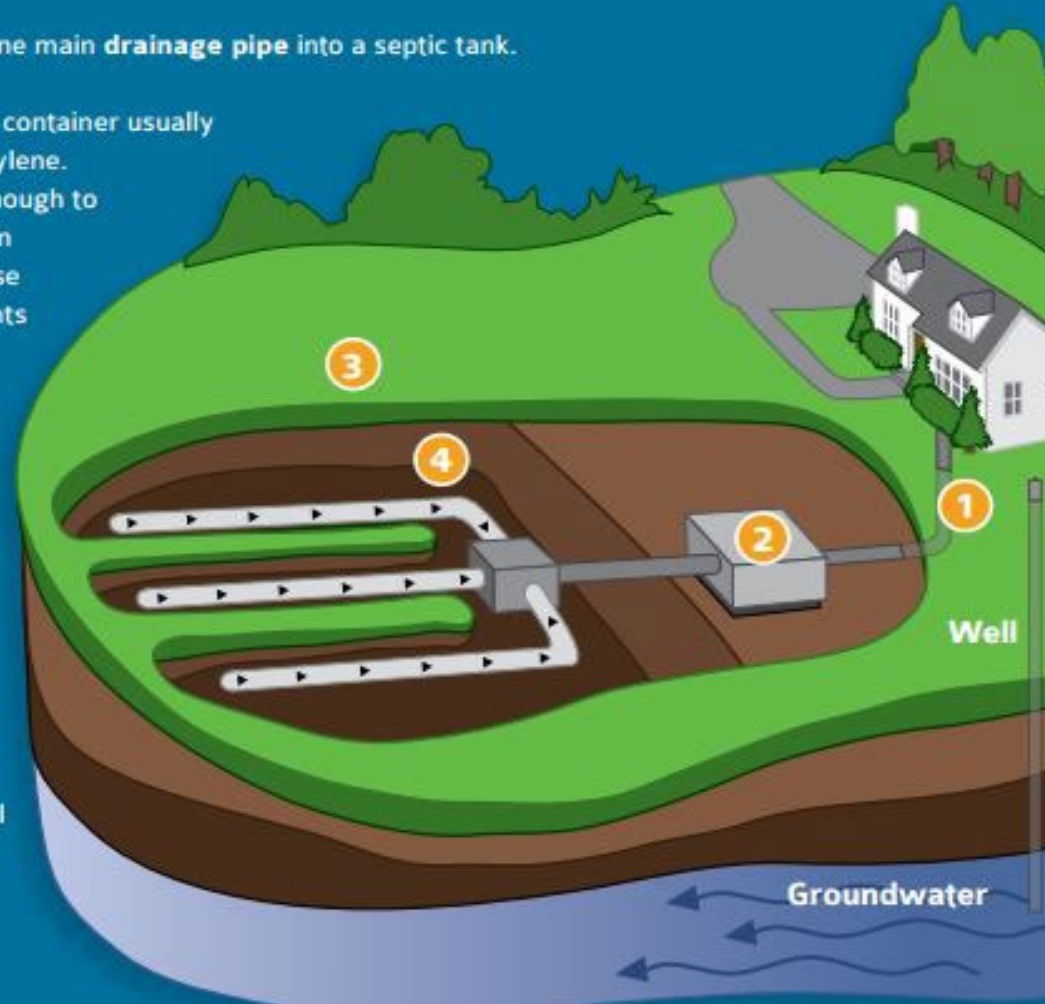
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-06/documents/septicSMART to homeowner guide english 08 0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-06/documents/septicSMART%20to%20homeowner%20guide%20english%2008%200.pdf)

<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

How does a septic system work?

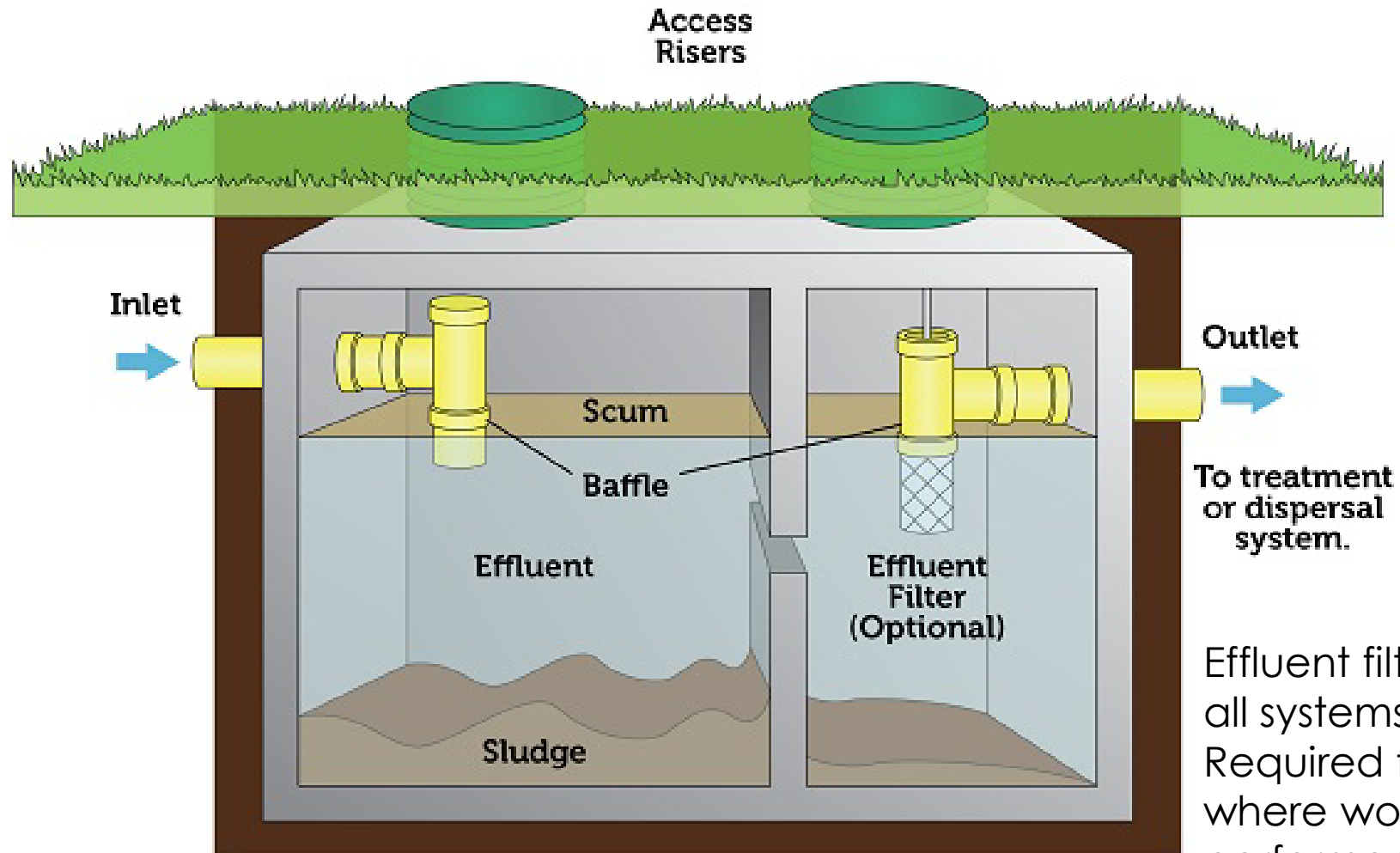
This is a simplified overview of how a septic system works.

- 1 All water runs out of your house from one main **drainage pipe** into a septic tank.
- 2 The **septic tank** is a buried, water-tight container usually made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Its job is to hold the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle down to the bottom (forming sludge), while the oil and grease floats to the top (as scum). Compartments and a T-shaped outlet prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area.
- 3 The liquid wastewater then exits the tank into the **drainfield**. If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in toilets and sinks.
- 4 Finally, the wastewater percolates into the **soil**, naturally removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients.



<https://www.epa.gov/septic> - <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-your-septic-system-works>

Septic Tank



To treatment
or dispersal
system.

Effluent filter recommended for
all systems.
Required for any new systems or
where work requiring a permit is
performed.

Please note: The number of compartments in a septic tank vary by state and region.

<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

