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Decommissioning Septic Tanks/Sewage Systems Information Guide

The Township of South-west Oxford encourages you to properly decommission your septic tank / sewage system when hooking up to municipal services or replacing an existing septic system

1. Locate the septic tank and uncover the top of the tank (generally 12-24" below ground level).
2. Remove the lid and have the septic tank effluent (liquid and sludge) pumped out by an approved sanitary septic Hauler. This is important, as the effluent will contain bacteria and viruses that could make you or your family ill. If you can't have the tank pumped immediately, mark the location of the tank so it is clearly visible (cover the hole and flag it).
3. Fill in the septic tank completely with soil (sand or gravel works best) and put the lid back in place or break the lid and the top of the tank apart, put the pieces into the bottom of the tank, and fill in the open tank with soil.
4. Backfill the soil around the septic tank slightly higher than ground level to allow for settling.
5. Disconnect the power at the source to all electrical controls and remove all tank accessories (pump, float switches).
6. Remove all electrical lines (including buried service line), that will not be used for other purposes. Devices containing mercury (float switches) must be disposed of at a Licensed Hazardous Waste Facility.

Important Numbers to Know

- Township of South-west Oxford Building Department: 519-485-0477 x 7001
- Ontario One Call: 1-800-400-2255 (natural gas, sewer and water lines, Hydro, Rogers Cable and Bell locates)
- Electrical Safety Authority: 1-877-ESA-SAFE (1-877-372-7233)