

# Septic Systems

## What FOCA sees

Most of Ontario's waterfront property owners rely on on-site sewage treatment systems to manage household wastewater.

## The Issue

Understanding how our systems work and the importance of maintaining them is important to protect our lakes and rivers from contaminants.

**Septic system construction is regulated under the Ontario Building Code, but maintenance, including pumping and inspection, is a homeowner responsibility.** Some regions have mandatory septic inspections every five years by the municipality or conservation authority, and some have grants to help property owners conduct necessary repairs and upgrades, but these are variable across the province.

## Your Role

**Take action to ensure your septic system is in good working order:**

- have a licensed technician inspect the system, pump out the tank, and install an effluent filter
- remind visitors to avoid putting anything down the drain that might interfere with the system function (examples include: coffee grounds, food scraps, tampons, applicators, flushable wipes, condoms, anti-bacterials, solvents)
- remind everyone to conserve water – large volumes can overload the system and cause failure!