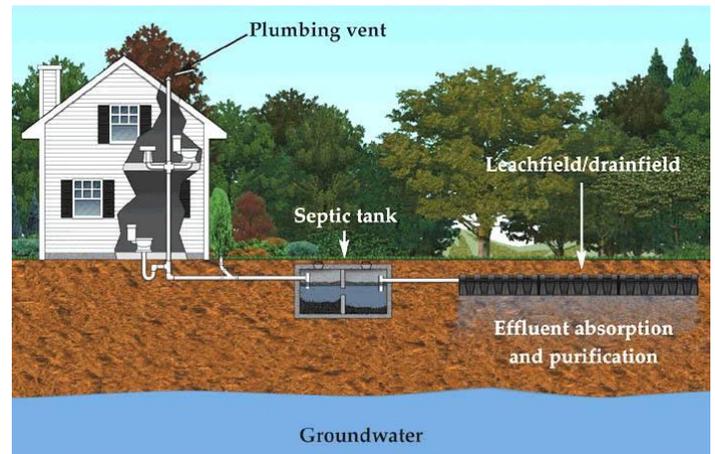




# Tips for Locating Your Septic Tank

- 1) Hire a Professional.** Most companies have the skills and equipment to locate the septic tanks.
- 2) Locate the Exit Sewer Pipe.** Go under the house (either in the basement or crawlspace) and look where the sewer pipe exists the foundation. The septic tank is usually within 10-15 feet of the foundation.
- 3) Probe the Ground.** Carefully probe with a rod the area where you think the septic tank might be.
- 4) Look for a Plumbing Vent.** The plumbing vent is usually on the roof of the house and can indicate which side of the house the septic tank may be on.
- 5) Do you have a clean-out?** These are white-capped tubes or pipes, cut off at or near the ground surface usually found between the house and the septic tank. Follow the line to the septic tank by probing the ground.
- 6) Look for Dead Grass or Dips.** Look for clues such as two shallow dips in the grass a few feet apart, this may be where the lids are. Also, look for a large rectangle of dead grass in the summer time. Shallow tanks may have dead grass over them.
- 7) Record Drawing.** Request a copy of the record drawing for your system. Many Older homes prior to the 70's may not have a record drawing or it may be incorrect.



Requests for a Record Drawing may be obtained by visiting the Sanilac County Health Department at 171 Dawson St. Ste. 123, Sandusky, MI 48471. You may also visit our website at [www.sanilachealth.com](http://www.sanilachealth.com), Click the Environmental Health/Permits link, and then click and print out the FOIA Request Form and mail, email [EH@SanilacHealth.com](mailto:EH@SanilacHealth.com), or fax (810)648-2646 the completed form back in to our department. Due to the potential high volume of FIOA requests, processing may take up to 5 to 15 business days. Please have your eleven-digit tax parcel number ready. This is the number that appears on your county tax statements. (If you do not have your tax parcel number, contact the County Assessor's office.)

The quality and detail of record drawings vary greatly. An older diagram (prior to 1980) may be a very rough, simple sketch showing the layout of your system. A newer diagram will show the tank, drainfield, replacement area (for future use if a replacement field is needed), and any other components of your system, such as a pump chamber or mound. The size of the tank and length of the drainfield lines may also be noted.

**SANILAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**171 DAWSON STREET-STE 123, SANDUSKY, MI 48471**