

# MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC TANK

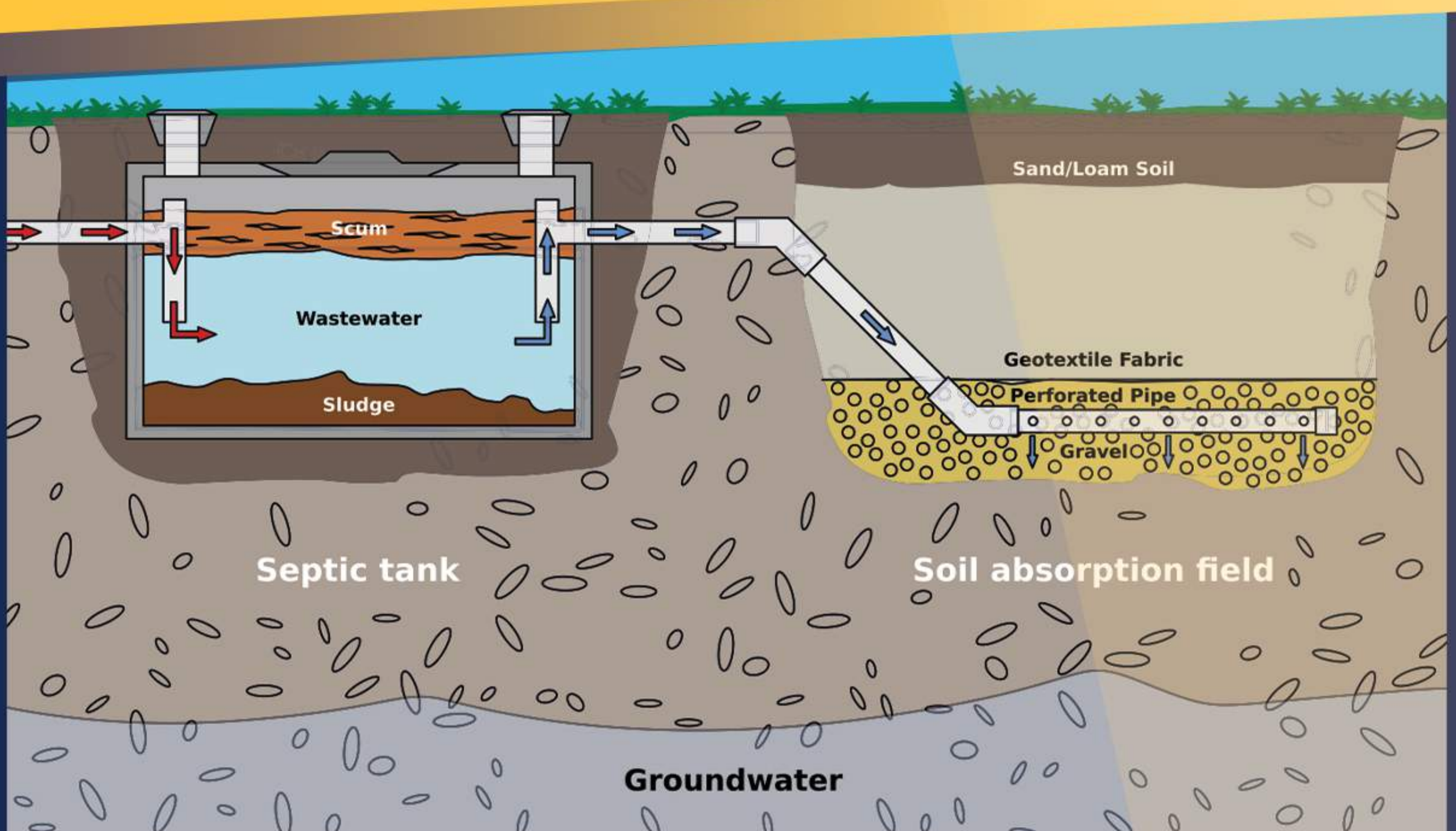


Washington County

M A R Y L A N D

## ABOUT YOUR SEPTIC TANK

The septic tank is an underground watertight container that is usually made with concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. It holds wastewater long enough for solids to settle out to form sludge, oil and grease to float to the surface as scum. It also allows partial decomposition of solid materials.



## How does a septic system work?

Compartments and a T-shaped outlet in the septic tank prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and moving into the drainfield area. Wastewater exits the septic tank and is discharged into the drainfield for further treatment by the soil. Microbes in the soil digest or remove most contaminants from wastewater before it reaches the groundwater.



## BAT & SEPTIC TANKS

Best Available Technology (BAT) units are specifically designed for nitrogen reduction. These units are pretreated and include electrical and mechanical components such as pumps, blowers and alarms. BAT units can replace or work in conjunction with an existing septic tank.

## RESPONSIBLE SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

Proper septic system maintenance including having the system inspected and pumped every 5 years, has several benefits: less likely to breakdown and require costly repair, protects your home investment, protects groundwater and drinking water and prevents backup into your home.

## SEPTIC SYSTEM DO'S

- Inspect and pump system every 5 years.
- Only flush human waste and toilet paper. Ensure all items being flushed down the septic tank can be broken down by bacteria in the tank.
- Plant only grass over the drain.



## SEPTIC SYSTEM DO NOT'S

- Dispose hazardous wastes in sinks and toilets.
- Use large amounts of bacteria-killing toxins like bleaches, household cleaning products and disinfectants.
- Drive, park or plant trees or shrubs over the drainfield.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US!

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