

How to Locate Your Private Sewage Disposal System

Locating Your Septic Tank/Treatment Unit

- Locate the main pipe that drains the waste water from the structure/dwelling, this pipe should lead directly to the inlet end of the septic tank/treatment unit
- The tank must be minimum 1.5 metres (current legislation) distance from a structure/dwelling, however, sometimes the main pipe might take a 30, 45 or 90 degree turn, so the tank may be located further and on a different side of the structure/dwelling
- The tank should have a maximum 30 cm soil cover (may be more or less)
- A metal detector may help in detecting the tank access lid(s) as there may be metal handle(s) on the lid(s)

Locating Your Leaching Bed (LB)

- LB is connected by a solid pipe from the outlet end of the septic tank/treatment unit
- LB must be a minimum 5 metres (current legislation) from a structure/dwelling
- LB is usually comprised of a number of connected pipes (underground with a maximum 600 mm soil cover) (current legislation)
- LB usually has the pipes installed in “rows” of 6, 9, 12 or 15 metres in length with 1.6 metres separating the rows
- As a “rule of thumb” during the installation of older leaching beds (prior to 1980) on residential properties (not necessarily for cottages)
 - A 3 bedroom dwelling was installed with approximately 90 metres of pipe (example, 6 rows each 15 metres)
 - A 4 bedroom dwelling was installed with approximately 120 metres of pipe (example., 8 rows each 15 metres)
 - A 5 bedroom dwelling was installed with approximately 150 metres of pipe (example., 10 rows each 15 metres)

Should you have difficulty locating your sewage system components, the services of a qualified sewage system installer and/or professional engineer can be retained and they should be able to determine the details of the sewage system(s) located on your property.

See included example of site plan/lot diagram on information sheet on the next page.

Lot Diagram Information Sheet

Below is an example of a site/lot diagram

