Additional Resources

Lane County Onsite Wastewater
https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/public_works/land_manag ement_division/on-_site_wastewater

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Onsite Wastewater
https://www.oregon.gov/deq/residential/pages/onsite.aspx

EPA Septic Smart
https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-system-care-and-maintenance

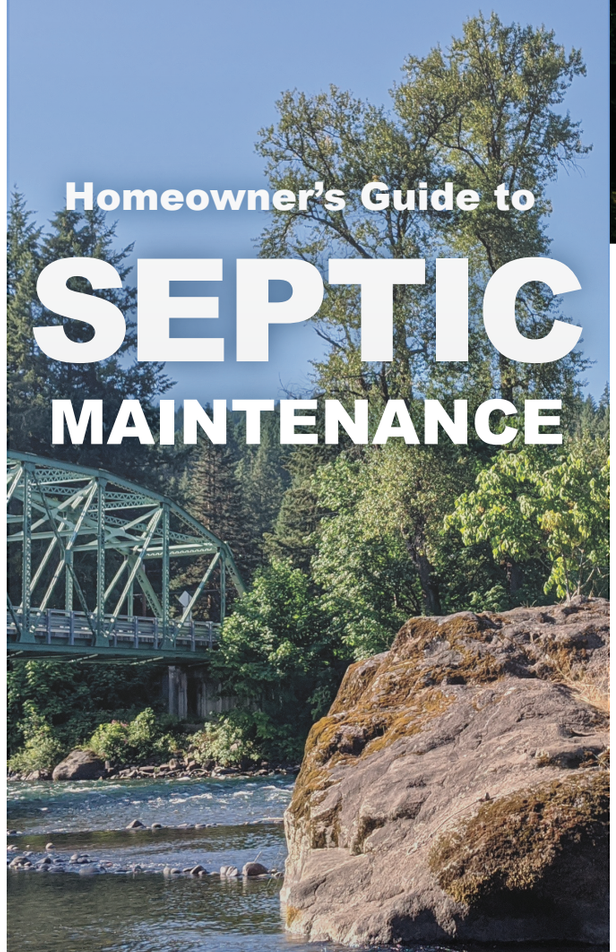
Some information in this brochure comes from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Septic Smart Program and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Eugene Water & Electric Board
4200 Roosevelt Blvd.
Eugene, OR 97402
541-685-7318
www.eweb.org/septic

EWEB

Homeowner's Guide to

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE



Maintaining your septic system can help you avoid costly repairs and helps keep the McKenzie River clean.

Financial Assistance from EWEB

EWEB recognizes the role properly maintained septic systems play in keeping drinking water clean. EWEB offers multiple septic system assistance programs for McKenzie Watershed homeowners located upstream of EWEB's drinking water intake:

Septic System Improvement Grants

EWEB has funding to assist home and business owners affected by the Holiday Farm Fire to inspect, build, repair, or replace their septic systems.
To receive these funds, properties must be within the Holiday Farm Fire perimeter, and meet other eligibility requirements (ownership, property location, and income guidelines).

Qualification is income-based. Approved landowners can receive up to:

- **up to $15,000 for improvements/replacements of a Conventional Septic System**
- **up to $35,000 for an Alternative Treatment Technology System**.

These funds are retroactive to March 3, 2021, for those who have already installed/repaired their septic systems.

These grant funds are from the American Rescue Plan Act and are distributed by EWEB in partnership with Lane County.

To apply, please visit: www.eweb.org/septic or email: ems.loans@eweb.org or call: 541-685-7318

Septic System and Infrastructure Loan

We understand that the cost of replacing a system can be prohibitive, yet it is critical to have a functioning septic system.

Our zero-interest loan program can help you replace or make major repairs to your septic system or drainfield, with loans of up to $20,000.

To be eligible, your property must be located within the **Septic System Boundary Map**.These are properties located in close proximity to the McKenzie. To see if your property qualifies, simply enter your address into the search tool on the map at **www.eweb.org/septicmap**.

You must use a DEQ-certified contractor to complete the work.

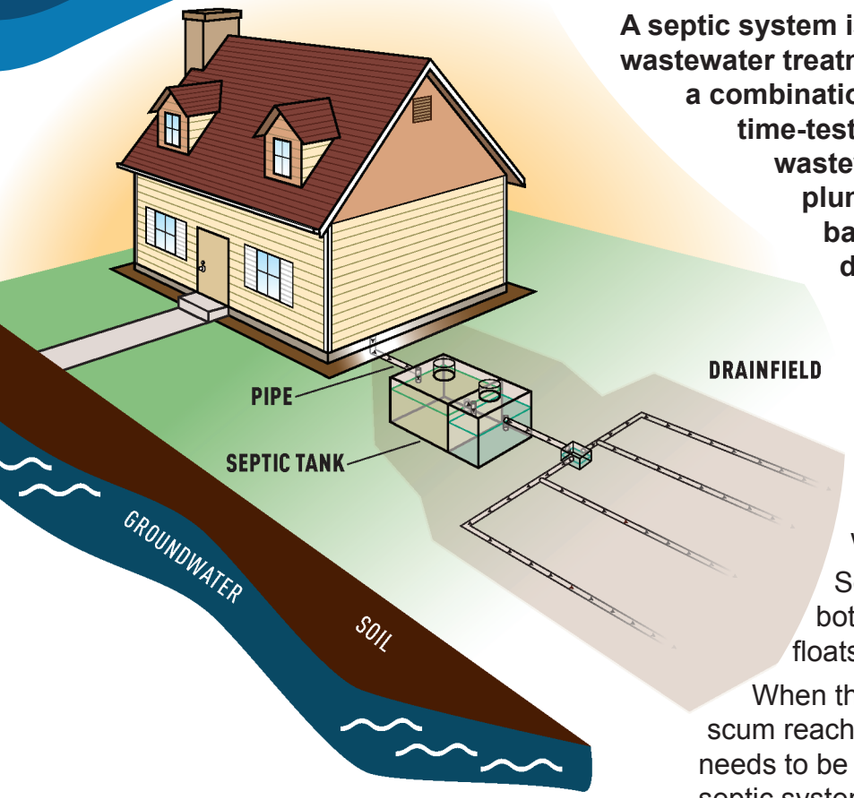
Septic Maintenance Incentive

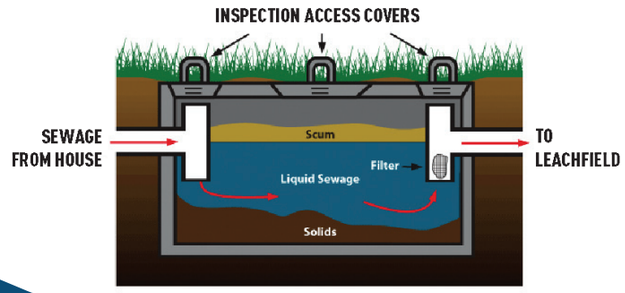
EWEB's Septic Maintenance Program offers up to $300 incentive to encourage homeowners within the **Septic System Boundary** to perform regular maintenance on septic systems.

This program also requires a DEQ-certified contractor to complete the work.

What is a Septic System?

A septic system is an underground wastewater treatment structure that uses a combination of nature and time-tested technology to treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry.





How Does It Work?

The septic tank captures wastewater from the home.

Solid material settles in the bottom of the tank (sludge) or floats on top (scum).

When the accumulated sludge and scum reach a certain level, the tank needs to be pumped out by a licensed septic system pumper in order to keep the system running properly.

The liquid portion of the waste (effluent) passes from the tank into the drainfield, where it is absorbed into the ground through perforated pipes and treated by soil organisms to remove harmful bacteria, viruses and nutrients.

This liquid portion eventually reaches the groundwater.

Why Should you Maintain Your Septic System

Saves You Money

Repairing or replacing a malfunctioning septic system can cost between $8,000 and $15,000 or more. Scheduling routine maintenance can avoid the need for total system repairs.

Protects Your Property Value

An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value, and could expose you to costly legal liability.

Keeps You and Your Neighbors Healthy

Household wastewater is loaded with disease causing bacteria and viruses, as well as high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. If a septic system is well-maintained and working properly, it will remove most of these pollutants. Insufficiently treated sewage from septic systems can cause ground-water and/or surface water contamination, which can spread disease to humans and animals.

Recommended Septic Maintenance

• Have your tank pumped out about every three to five years by a DEQ licensed pumper (see Pumping Frequency Table). You can find licensed pumpers in the phone book or online.

• Have the tank inspected every three years for function and sludge accumulation.

• Conserve water to avoid overloading the system.

• Avoid or limit the use of an in-sink garbage disposal. Fats, grease and solids can clog the drainfield.

• Don't flush any material except waste and toilet paper.

• Avoid harsh chemicals such as those in drain clog removers, gasoline, oil, pesticides and other cleaners. These can kill the beneficial 'bugs' that treat the wastewater.

• Don't use septic system additives. These products generally do not help and some may even be harmful to your system.

• Know the location of the tank and drainfield. Keep maintenance records.

(If you don't have drawings of your system, check with Lane County to see whether records exist.)

• Don't drive, build or pave over the drainfield. This could crush the pipes or compact the soil, negatively impacting the treatment process.

• Don't plant trees on top of the drainfield— roots could damage the system.

• Keep roof drains, sump pumps and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drainfield area, as excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.

Please visit: www.eweb.org/septic or email us at ems.loans@eweb.org