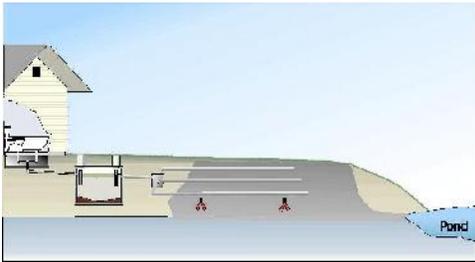


The Inspection Process

The inspector will first check the drainage area for evidence of system failure, check the tank for evidence of leak or backup and then measure solids accumulation to see if pumping is needed. If the tank is pumped, the inside must be inspected while empty. Pumping is standard at all **First Maintenance Inspections**.

The inspector will generate a report that describes the system, identifies maintenance requirements and recommend a schedule for the next **Routine Maintenance Inspection** and pumping. The inspector also submits a copy of the report to the Town and provides you a copy.



A **Change of**

Conventional Septic System with Septic Tank and Trench Drainfield

Ownership Inspection is required by the Town when a property is sold and requires a **Functional Inspection**.

All **Advanced Treatment Systems and Denitrification systems** must have a Maintenance Agreement in place with a State Approved Service Provider at all times and must be serviced at least annually.

All **Cesspools** must be inspected and pumped annually until their required replacement under Charlestown's Cesspool Phase-out Program.

Inspection Results

You have a standard system in good repair.

If your system needs pumping it must be done within 30-days of inspection. If it does not need pumping, a schedule for pumping and next inspection will be set by the inspector.

Your system requires repair or replacement.

Property owners have 60-days to apply for a permit from the RIDEM to repair the system. The Town Wastewater Manager can assist in the process and has fact sheets on how to proceed.

You have a cesspool. All cesspools in Charlestown are required to be removed and replaced with a system suitable for the Wastewater Management District. Contact the Town Wastewater Manager for details.

- ◆ **Low Interest Loans Are Available** for system repair and cesspool replacement through Charlestown's Community Septic System Loan Program.

For More Information

Visit the following websites:

www.CharlestownRI.org

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/OWT/index.htm>

Or Call:

The Town of Charlestown Office of Wastewater Management at (401) 364-5030



Know where it goes.....

Charlestown's On-Site Wastewater Management Program



Fort Neck in Ninigret Pond

Town of Charlestown
Wastewater Management
Office



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

(401) 364-5030

Groundwater-Our Most Important Resource!

All of Charlestown relies solely on groundwater for drinking water (through private and public wells) and every household and business in Charlestown relies on septic systems for sewage disposal. Therefore, substandard, malfunctioning and failing septic systems have the potential to significantly impact our health and our environment.



Proper maintenance and care of your septic system is of utmost importance! **Charlestown's Wastewater Ordinance is designed to enhance your septic system performance and longevity, while minimizing costs.** The program tracks the status of all septic systems in Town through a required inspection process and records are maintained in a comprehensive database.

An important element of the program is the flexibility of inspection frequency, which is based on your septic systems history: **How often you have your system inspected can be adjusted in order to match the need for pumping, and thus can vary from one to five years.**

What's Required....

A Town Ordinance requires inspection, maintenance and pumping out your septic system.

- ◆ You will receive a Town notice indicating when your next inspection is required.
- ◆ Your septic service provider must be approved by the Town of Charlestown. A list of approved inspectors is available from the Office of Wastewater Management. The inspector will follow inspection procedures specified by RIDEM and the Town of Charlestown Ordinance.
- ◆ Inspections are required every one to five years based on system age, use and the results of previous inspections.
- ◆ Advanced / Denitrification Systems and Cesspools must be inspected annually.
- ◆ Systems are required to be inspected prior to a point of sale.
- ◆ Pumping is based only on the results of the inspection. If the tank does not need pumping at the time of inspection, it will be scheduled based on the accumulation rate of material in the tank.



Substandard septic systems are a major source of pollution to Charlestown's groundwater supplies, salt ponds and inland waters. You can help protect our waters.....

Preparing for the Inspection

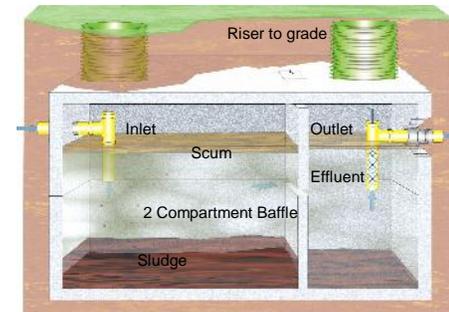
The cost of an inspection depends partly on the time required. Save money by preparing in advance. Follow these steps:

Collect data on your system. Gather past inspection reports and maps, copies of which can be found at Town Hall.



Get informed about the inspection process. The Wastewater Manager has information on the inspection process and options that may

lower the cost of future inspections and improve system performance.



A typical two compartment Septic Tank that allows clear water to exit to the soil treatment area.

Be present for the inspection. By getting to know your system and discussing its use and history with the inspector, they may have information or actions that can help you save \$ and protect your system.

Obtain Septic System Fact Sheets and Additional Information at the Office of Wastewater Management at Town Hall.