

Important Notice About Your Septic System

What South Kingstown residents should know about the onsite wastewater management ordinance and regulations

SAFEBATER



FACTS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

- All South Kingstown residents depend on groundwater as the only source of drinking water.
- 60% of residents use septic systems
- About 40% of septic systems predate 1970 State standards and may be substandard.
- Private wells have been contaminated and many residents have less than full use of their properties due to failing septic systems.
- Portions of our ponds are closed to shell fishing and the trend is towards declining quality. Pollution from runoff and failed septic systems is considered responsible.

What will happen

1. Upon receiving a notice, you have forty-five days to schedule an inspection with a Town Approved Inspector from the date of the notice.
2. To prepare for the inspection, collect any information about the system and past maintenance, and if possible locate and uncover the system yourself to lower costs.
3. If you have a cesspool or a system installed before 1970, you must have a pump out during the First Maintenance Inspection. If your system was installed after 1970 a pump out is recommended but not mandatory.
4. The Inspector will follow procedures set forth in the RI DEM Inspection Handbook.
5. The Inspector will complete a report that describes the system, identifies maintenance requirements, and recommends a schedule for the next inspection and pump out.
6. The Inspector will submit the inspection report to the Town. The Town will review the inspection results, and send you a reminder before your next inspection and pump out is due.

What's Required After the Inspection:

FUNCTIONING SEPTIC SYSTEM IN GOOD CONDITION

- You will get a reminder of the next inspection and pump out date from the Town.

FUNCTIONING SEPTIC SYSTEM THAT NEEDS PUMPING

- The Inspector will give you a copy of the inspection report stating the date you must have your septic system pumped.



The town of South Kingstown requires homeowners to have their septic systems inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Failing systems will need to be repaired. Inspections will be phased in over seven years.

- You must get the pumping completed and submit a receipt to the Town within thirty days of notice.
- You will get a reminder of the next inspection and pump out date.

SEPTIC SYSTEM NEEDING MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR

- The Inspector will give you a copy of the inspection report, listing the maintenance or repairs needed.
- The Town will issue a notice of violation informing you to repair or replace your system.
- You must submit proof that action has been taken within thirty days of notice.
- You will get a reminder of your next inspection and pump out date.

FUNCTIONING CESSPOOL

- By ordinance, all cesspools must be replaced within 5 years of First Inspection or within 12 months of property sale.
- After replacing your cesspool, you need to submit a copy of the certificate of construction from you installer as proof of completion of the system
- You will get a reminder of the next inspection and pump out date.

FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEM OR CESSPOOL WITH IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEATH OR ENVIRONMENT

- The Town will issue you a notice of violation.
- You must submit an application for system repair or replacement to RI DEM within 30 days.
- You must repair or replace the system within 12 months of notice of the failed system and submit to the Town the application for repair or replacement and the date of installation of the system.
- Technical assistance to select the most appropriate repair or replacement system for you site is available.

Upgrades for Tanks – highly recommended but not required

Consider installing access risers to simplify future inspections and reduce inspection costs.

An effluent filter helps keep solids in the tank and prevents drainfield clogging.

Specifications for risers and tank retrofitting are available from the Town.

Only functioning tanks should be retrofitting with risers. Failing tanks must be replaced.

Financial Assistance to residents

Low interest (4%) loans for system repair/upgrade

Aid locating hard-to-find tanks is available.

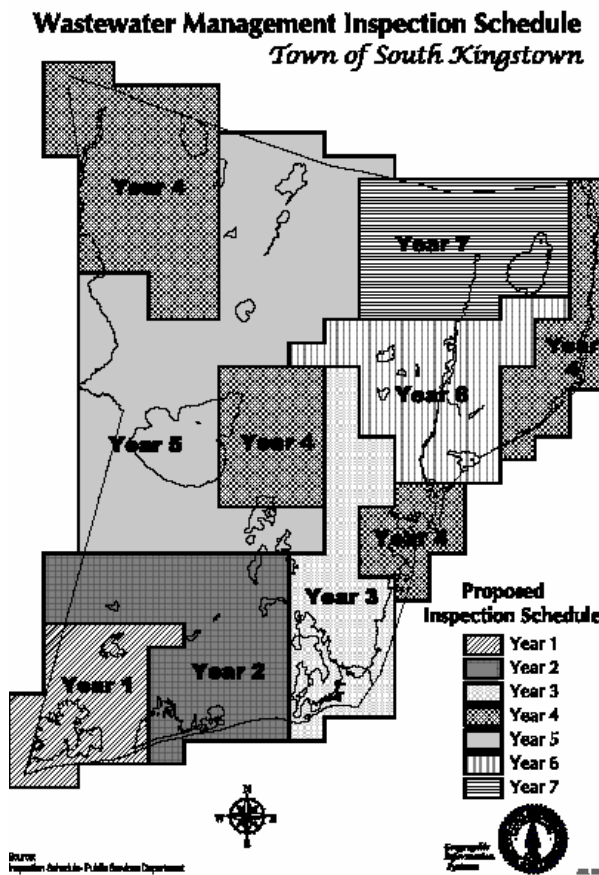
More information is available:

Financial and technical assistance

Inspection schedule map with plat/lots

List of approved inspectors

Wastewater management program fact sheets



CONTACT THE SOUTH KINGSTOWN ONSITE WASTEWATER OFFICE

Tel: 401-789-9331 ext 263

Hours: Wed. 1:00-4:30, Thurs. and Fri. 8:30-4:30

Or go to: www.uri.edu/ce/wq/bighp.html

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