# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of a septic systems guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibilities of the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge regarding septic systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibilities of the occupant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How septic systems work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Description and functioning of a septic system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-The septic tank: primary treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Secondary treatment: the soil absorption system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-What to avoid putting into the septic system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Microorganisms hard at work: crucial allies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Septic systems and their impact on streams and bodies of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-How can you tell if there is a problem with your septic system?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Reducing your water consumption will increase the efficiency of your septic tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Best practices to adopt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Additives and tank efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Precautions against freezing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Abandonment of a septic tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emptying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Emptying procedure for septic tanks in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Access to the septic tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Forbidden substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Additional emptying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-The right emptying method for your septic tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Holding tanks: systems requiring complete emptying at regular intervals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Steps to take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Tips to make life easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and troubleshooting guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of a waste water treatment system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References and sources of information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Introduction**

Since 1999, blue-green algae blooms have been reported in more than 200 water bodies in a number of watershed areas across Québec. Protecting the health of our lakes and watercourses is in our utmost interest. Untreated or inadequately treated waste water is considered to be a major source of pollution for aquatic environments. Having identified phosphorus as one of the primary causes of the accelerated eutrophication of our water bodies, reducing the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants generated by human activities has become a priority objective.

Requiring all residences to have a properly functioning septic system is a key element for ensuring the quality of our environment. Municipalities and owners of isolated dwellings share a responsibility to ensure that their septic systems comply with the necessary standards for protecting the environment.

---

**Mayor’s Message**

On behalf of the council of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, I am pleased to present this booklet on the septic waste collection program. After two years of study on the challenge of septic waste management, environmental protection, and public service cost containment, the councillors arrived at the conclusion that a common collection service for septic residues would answer not only the needs of most households but the broader needs of the community.

The whole of Quebec, and the Argenteuil MRC in particular, is preoccupied with waste management, landfill, recycling, composting and the most recent challenge of treating septic sludge in rural areas. Grenville-sur-la-Rouge is proud to protect its environment and to be a leader among Quebec municipalities. We hope you find the booklet both educational and practical.

John Saywell, Maire
Purpose of a septic systems guide

In 2016, there are more than 2,000 septic systems within the territory of the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, 1,793 of which are connected to residential buildings. For many residents, this independent waste water management system may appear to be somewhat complicated, in terms of how it works and its impact on the environment.

The Municipality and the property owner share the responsibility of ensuring that these systems comply with applicable regulations. As a tool to help you manage your septic system, the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge has produced this guide, which will provide answers to the following questions:

- How can I improve the functioning of my septic system and extend its lifespan?
- How can I ensure that my tank is emptied easily and effectively?
- What are the signs of trouble?
- How does the septic tank emptying program work, and when will the Municipality empty my septic tank?
- What are the provincial and municipal regulations regarding the evacuation and treatment of waste water from isolated dwellings?

A list of frequently asked questions / troubleshooting guide is provided at the end of the document to help you understand and manage your septic system.

Responsibilities of the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge regarding septic systems

For the past 30 years, Quebec municipalities have been mandated by the provincial government to apply the Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings (Q-2, r.22). The regulation applies to residences with six bedrooms or fewer and other buildings that:

- generate a daily flow of waste water under 3,240 litres;
- are not connected to a sewage system.

The regulation covers various aspects, including the issuing of construction permits, emptying of tanks, and the control of nuisances with regard to septic systems.

To meet its obligations, the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge relies on a multidisciplinary team mandated to inform and provide support to residents who own septic systems.

Responsibilities of the occupant

Residents are responsible for ensuring that their septic system does not pollute the environment or cause any nuisance. They must also take the necessary measures to enable the contractor appointed by the Municipality to empty their septic tank (see “Emptying”).

Did you know...

A permit must be obtained from the Municipality prior to installing, replacing or modifying a septic system (see “Installation of a waste water treatment system”). Permit request forms and any necessary documentation can be mailed or delivered in person to the Town Hall. For any questions or information, please contact the Municipality’s Town Planning and Environment Department (http://gslr.ca/services-municipaux/amenagement-du-territoire/?lang=en).
How it works

The waste water treatment system most commonly found in Québec consists of two components: a septic tank (primary treatment system) and a soil absorption system, commonly referred to as a leaching bed, which is the secondary treatment system. These two components (primary and secondary treatment systems) purify the waste water produced by the household.

The Septic Tank: primary treatment

Waste water from the house enters the septic tank, which is comprised of a reservoir with two chambers buried on your property. This is where the waste water is held temporarily.

The first chamber separates the solids from the liquids through decantation: heavier solids settle to the bottom of the reservoir and become sludge while greases and fats, called scum, float to the surface. The partially clarified water then passes into the second chamber, which has the same purpose, i.e. to continue the separation of sludge and scum.

Waste water treatment begins in the chambers of the septic tank. As soon as the water reaches the septic tank, microorganisms present in the tank begin to digest the organic matter, which initiates the treatment process.
Secondary treatment: the soil absorption system

On leaving the second chamber of the septic tank, the partially treated waste water slowly flows into the soil absorption system. The latter may be a standard leaching bed comprised of perforated pipes or any other system with a filtering medium. This filtration improves the "secondary" or "advanced secondary" treatment according to the elements in place.

Water then progressively infiltrates the ground or an embankment. The microorganisms present in the soil digest the remaining impurities and the purified water eventually infiltrates the ground water.

The type of leaching bed selected depends on different factors: the nature of the soil, the profile and surface area of the leaching bed, the number of bedrooms in the home, etc. Hence, an expert assessment is required before installing a new system.

What to avoid putting into the septic system

Avoid putting anything into the septic system that doesn’t break down naturally or that takes a long time to break down:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products that impede bacterial activity</th>
<th>Materials that take a long time to decompose</th>
<th>Items that block pipes and pumps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large quantities of disinfectant (e.g. bleach)*</td>
<td>Ashes</td>
<td>Hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water used to clean water softeners*</td>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>Condoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor oil*</td>
<td>Condoms</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expired medication</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
<td>Cooking oil and grease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical drain cleaner*</td>
<td>Cooking oil and grease</td>
<td>Pet litter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solvents and paint*</td>
<td>Large quantities of organic material</td>
<td>Cleaning products</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Every year the Municipality’s collection schedule includes a date for the collection of Hazardous Domestic Waste. Collection takes place at the municipal garage, located at 1754 Route 148, from 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM.
Microorganisms hard at work: crucial allies!

Bacteria that are naturally present in your septic tank feed on organic matter and break it down, reducing the volume of sludge and scum. These bacteria promote the optimal treatment of waste water and must be preserved, since their presence is a sign of an efficient system.

Sending too many chemical products into a septic system can harm or kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your waste water, preventing them from doing their job.

A reduction in water consumption improves the treatment's effectiveness. In fact, the longer the water is in contact with microorganisms, the better the organic matter breaks down.

Septic systems and their impact on streams and bodies of water

When a septic system is malfunctioning or improperly used (by introducing excess water or undesirable products), the treatment is less effective. Thus, when the leaching bed malfunctions, water laden with contaminants (e.g. phosphorus or nitrogen) is expelled into nature and pollutes bodies of water, resulting in algae bloom (e.g. cyanobacterium) and a proliferation of aquatic plants. The discharge of fecal coliforms exceeding standards may also cause health risks. In certain cases, restricting the use of waterways is inevitable, primarily affecting recreational tourism activities.

Even if your septic system is not near a stream, it can still have an impact on it. In fact, ditches and ground water contaminated by your septic system will eventually reach waterways.

How can you tell if there is a problem with your septic system?

Different signs can indicate a malfunction of your septic system:

- The lawn covering the leaching bed is exceptionally green and spongy;
- Water in pipes takes longer to drain (sink, toilet, shower);
- Pipes and ditches emit sewage odours;
- Grey or black liquids may surface on your property;
- Traces of overflow may be visible around septic tank covers;
- A water analysis of your well or that of your neighbour reveals bacterial contamination.

Keep your eyes open

Most of these points are easy to check: the proper functioning of your septic system is your responsibility.
Reducing your water consumption will increase the efficiency of your septic tank

Waste water should be held in the septic tank for at least 24 hours to give the bacteria time to break down the organic matter. During this time, grease and fats (scum) separate and rise to the surface, while solids (sludge) settle on the bottom. The bacterial treatment that begins at this stage clarifies the sewage before it is discharged from the septic tank to the leaching bed, thereby optimizing the performance of the second stage of treatment.

A septic tank must be large enough to allow waste water to remain in the tank for 24 hours. The minimum total capacity of a septic tank depends on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling (Regulation Q-2, r.22).

Do you have a water softener?
Water used to backwash your water softener must never be directed to your septic tank. The strong concentration of minerals can hinder the functioning of your septic tank.

**Best practices to adopt**

**A. Use healthy products**
Reduce your use of chemical products: poisoned bacteria will not be effective at treating your waste water. Opt for biodegradable products.

**B. Reduce your phosphate footprint**
Use phosphate-free detergents, pump your septic tank in accordance with local regulations, maintain your septic system and make sure that it is functioning correctly: these actions will reduce the discharge of phosphorus and help to protect the health of nearby waterways.

**C. Save water**
Install water savers on your faucets, repair leaks and spread water use over time (showers, laundry, dishwashing). Heavy water consumption accelerates water circulation in the tank and prevents the separation of sludge and scum (whenever water enters the tank, an equal quantity of liquid flows out to the leaching bed).

**D. Look after your leaching bed**
The leaching bed is an important and fragile part of your system. To avoid compacting the soil and reducing its role as a filter, you must never drive heavy vehicles or park a car on your leaching bed. Similarly, keep anything that could compact the soil, such as storage sheds or swimming pools, far from the leaching area. Avoid water saturation (direct gutters and runoff away from the leaching bed, don’t water the grass over the area).

Avoid installing children’s play modules, gardens, and concrete or asphalt infrastructures on a leaching bed. In addition, trees and shrubs must be located at least two metres from the leaching bed.

The area over the leaching bed must be stabilized by planting grass to prevent erosion, and must be kept free of any installation.

**Did you know...**
Compacted or water-saturated soil contains less air, which slows down the action of the soil bacteria responsible for treating the waste water. These bacteria need oxygen to survive and function.
Additives and tank efficiency

Certain businesses have developed products (e.g. enzymes) to improve the efficiency of your septic tank or leaching bed. Using these additives is at the discretion of the property owner.

According to the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques (MDDELCC), using additives is not required to optimize the efficiency of your tank. In some cases, enzymes added to reduce sludge and disintegrate grease and fat can attack the “good” bacteria and result in toxic run-off. The best way to use your system is to follow the advice provided in this guide.

Precautions against freezing

Snow is a great insulator and contributes to protecting your leaching bed from freezing. In the fall, before the snow falls, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CHMC) recommends spreading a foot of mulch over your leaching bed, or simply letting the grass grow high.

It should be noted that stagnant water in pipes or a low output of water over a long period of time is often the cause of frozen septic systems. To prevent this problem, it is recommended that the septic tank be emptied if you plan on being absent for a prolonged period of time in the winter.

If, despite these precautions, your septic system is frozen, DO NOT add products to your tank to fix the problem. Instead, contact an expert who will inject steam into the pipes.

Abandoning a septic tank

When your septic tank needs to be abandoned, whether to install a new tank or because you're connecting to the municipal sewage network, after emptying your tank, you are OBLIGATED to:

- Remove the septic tank from the ground;

or

- Fill the tank with gravel, sand, earth or inert material.

Prior to commencing this type of work, contact the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge Town Planning and Environment Department at (819) 242-8762.
Emptying procedure for septic tanks in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge

Since 2016, the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge has been proceeding with the emptying of septic tanks on its territory, dividing the area into two sectors: West of the Rivière Rouge and East of the Rivière Rouge (Fig. 5).

All sectors are serviced each year between mid-May and December 1st. The septic tanks of dwellings permanently occupied (permanent occupancy) are emptied every two years and those of dwellings temporarily occupied (seasonal occupancy) every four years, with the exception of systems requiring regular complete emptying (holding tanks and sealed septic tanks) which are emptied on an annual basis. This practice meets environmental requirements.

The tank emptying schedule is established based on the date on which each tank was last emptied. A list of residences scheduled for tank emptying will be published on the Municipal website (www.gsir.ca) at the latest April 1st of each year. Outside of the scheduled emptying period, it is the responsibility of the property owner to have his septic tank emptied, at his own expense, by the contractor appointed by the Municipality, where applicable.

You will be notified by the appointed contractor two weeks prior to the scheduled visit.
Access to the septic tank

To benefit from the septic tank emptying service within the meaning of By-Law RU—950-02-2016 of the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, the property owner must comply with the following conditions:

- The road giving access to the septic tank must be clean and cleared of any material so that the service area to receive the contractor's vehicle is located at a distance of less than or equal to 30 meters from the opening of the septic tank. The emptying service area must be a minimum width of 4.2 meters.
- The bearing capacity of the access road must be sufficient for the septic truck to circulate, all the way to the septic tank.
- All caps, covers, or other elements closing the opening of a septic tank must be free of any obstruction, meaning that 20 cm (8 in) of free space must be left around the cap, cover, or element.
- The occupant of the property must clearly indicate the location of the opening of the septic tank.

Forbiden substances

If, while emptying a septic tank, the contractor finds that the septic tank contains forbidden substances (combustible, corrosive or radioactive substances, metals, etc.), the owner or occupant is responsible for emptying the septic tank himself and for having the waste water decontaminated before disposing of it in accordance with the Environment quality act (R.S.Q., c. Q-2) and must pay all costs relating to these operations, all within ten (10) days following the issuing of a notice stating the presence of forbidden substances in the septic tank.

Additional emptying (non-scheduled)

Any additional emptying of a septic tank to be carried out by request of the resident (extra or more frequent emptying, emptying outside of the scheduled emptying period or emergency emptying) is the responsibility of and at the expense of the property owner and must be carried out by the contractor appointed by the Municipality at the price agreed. The unit price (including taxes) for selective emptying (septic tank) is 142,00 $ and for complete emptying (holding tanks, sealed septic tanks and cesspools) is 192,00 $.

After emptying your tank, the contractor will provide you with a document detailing the work done.
The right emptying method for your septic tank

The contractor appointed by the Municipality will use one of two methods to empty your septic tank depending on the type of septic system you have: complete emptying or selective emptying.

Complete emptying

Complete emptying is an operation consisting of the complete removal from the septic tank of all its contents, including liquids, scum and solids, up to full capacity. All removed contents are then transported to a septic sludge treatment facility authorized by the MDDELCC.

Complete emptying is mandatory for holding tanks, sealed septic tanks and cesspools.

Selective emptying

Selective emptying is an operation consisting of completely removing from the septic tank all its contents up to full capacity, and returning part of the liquid to the tank, up to a depth of 60 centimetres from the bottom of the tank or 60% of the total capacity of the tank. The residual water returned to the tank has a suspended particulate matter concentration of less than 350 mg/l. The removed biosolids (sludge, grease and fat, etc.) are then transported to a septic sludge treatment facility authorized by the MDDELCC.

This method meets high sustainable development standards and is mandatory for conventional septic tanks, i.e. watertight reservoirs with two chambers (see “The septic tank: primary treatment” under How Septic Systems Work).

Selective emptying returns the beneficial bacteria to your septic tank, enabling it to continue to function effectively after being emptied.

The advantages of selective emptying include:
- Reuse of bacterial flora;
- At-source reduction of residual matter, lower hydrocarbon consumption and thus lower greenhouse gas emissions;
- Recycling of treated water;
- Reduced need for chemicals at the treatment facility.

Holding tanks: systems requiring complete emptying at regular intervals

The Municipality’s septic tank emptying program provides one service call per year for holding tanks and sealed septic tanks.

Please note that if you also have a conventional tank, it will be emptied on the same day as your holding tank or sealed septic tank.

Your holding tank or sealed septic tank may need to be emptied more often, or at a different time than that scheduled by the Municipality. All additional requests to empty tanks should be made directly to the contractor appointed by the Municipality. You will be charged by the contractor for the additional service call at the rate of 192,00 $ including taxes.
Steps to take

Before emptying: five steps to take

1. Clear the tank’s two covers, two days prior to the date scheduled by the contractor appointed by the Municipality. For example, if the visit is scheduled for a Friday, the covers must be cleared on the previous Wednesday (Fig. 6).

Please note that a minimum allowance of 20 cm (8 in.) is required around each cover.

2. Make sure that there are no infrastructures (e.g. patio, wooden structures) or decorative elements (e.g. mulch, flowers) covering the tank. There should be no obstacles within a 1.5-metre radius around the tank or within 3 metres above the septic system (Fig. 7).

3. Clearly identify the location of the tank (e.g. use a stake) so that the company responsible for emptying the tank can easily find it (Fig. 8).

4. Make sure the site is safe and accessible (unlocked fence, pets tied up if needed, tree branches cut). Your civic number must also be visible from the public road (Fig. 9).

5. Refer to your septic system’s manufacturer’s instructions for directions on emptying the tank. For example, some leaching beds such as Bionest systems are equipped with a circulation pump that must be turned off during emptying to avoid damage (Fig. 10).
Steps to take (cont.)

During emptying

You do not need to be on site during the emptying of your septic tank, unless otherwise requested by the Municipality. In principle, the tank will be emptied between **7 AM and 5 PM** on the date indicated on the notice provided by the contractor at least 14 days prior to the visit.

Please note that the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge empties septic tanks **ONLY**. If you have an advanced secondary treatment system, its maintenance and emptying must be carried out by the manufacturer.

After emptying

After emptying your tank, the contractor will leave a document detailing the work carried out and any other relevant information. Make sure the site remains accessible until you have received confirmation from the contractor that the work has been completed.

Tips and Tricks

Permanent accessibility to your septic tank

Your septic tank must be accessible at all times to allow emptying.

Go for a permanent solution. The following are examples of layouts recommended by the Municipality.

For tanks that are deeper in the ground, access risers should be installed. Place an insulating material over each tank cover that can easily be removed to allow emptying, and install an access riser at ground level (Fig. 11).

Tank covers or covers added to the access riser for deeper tanks are then surrounded by a French drain to ensure that vegetation growth does not limit access (Fig. 12).
## Frequently asked questions and troubleshooting guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. When do I need to empty my septic tank?</td>
<td>The Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge will automatically empty the septic tanks of permanent residences every 2 years, of seasonal residences every 4 years and holding tanks/sealed septic tanks every year (annually). The year your tank is due to be emptied is calculated based on the year in which it was last emptied. <em>Any additional emptying is at the discretion of the property owner.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How often will the Municipality empty my septic tank?</td>
<td>Every 2 years for dwellings permanently occupied. Every 4 years for dwellings temporarily occupied and annually for holding and sealed tanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. My septic tank is full of water. Is that normal?</td>
<td>A septic tank should always be full of liquid; however, the level should never be higher than the outlet pipe to the leaching bed. See <strong>How it works.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. My septic tank is overflowing into the yard, water is seeping out through the covers or the water level in the tank seems very high. Is that normal?</td>
<td>A septic tank should always be full of water. However, if the tank is overflowing or if the water level is higher than the outlet pipe to the leaching bed, that may indicate that the leaching bed is not functioning efficiently or may be clogged. See <strong>How it works.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The sinks and toilets in my house seem to be draining very slowly and water is backing up into the pipes. What should I do?</td>
<td>Your home’s plumbing may be the problem (obstruction or blocked air vent), or your septic tank pre-filter may be clogged. See <strong>How it works</strong> and <strong>What to avoid putting into the septic system.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. When I open the first cover of my septic tank, I see a large volume of deposits that seem to fill the tank. Is that normal?</td>
<td>The first chamber of your tank separates solids from liquids through decantation. The heavier solids settle to the bottom of the tank, while grease and fats (scum) rise to the surface, forming a solid crust. See <strong>How it works.</strong> As long as water is draining freely from your home to the septic tank, there is no need to worry. Take the precaution of never introducing substances that can block the pipes and pumps into the septic system. See <strong>What to avoid putting into the septic system.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. In the area over my leaching bed, there is an odor of sewage or the ground is wet and the lawn is exceptionally green and lush. Is that normal?</td>
<td>Your leaching bed is not functioning efficiently or may be clogged. Check that the water level in the tank is not higher than the outlet pipe to the leaching bed. See <strong>How it works.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Are there things I should or should not do in order to maximize my investment and extend the lifespan of my septic system?</td>
<td>Reduce your water consumption, avoid the use of harmful products and protect your treatment system. See <strong>Best Practices.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Frequently asked questions (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. I have a holding tank that needs to be emptied every year. Is the Municipality responsible for ensuring that this is done?</td>
<td>Yes: for systems with a sealed septic tank or holding tank requiring complete emptying on a regular basis, the Municipality will provide one total (complete) emptying every year. The tax will be adjusted accordingly. However, should additional (more frequent) emptying be necessary, this is the responsibility of and at the expense of the property owner and must be carried out by the contractor appointed by the Municipality at the agreed price of 192,00 $ including taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. When will the contractor appointed by the Municipality come to empty my tank?</td>
<td>Before April of each year the Municipality will publish a list on its website (<a href="http://www.gslr.ca">www.gslr.ca</a>) of dwellings whose tanks will be emptied that year. The contractor appointed by the Municipality will schedule its service calls for the year and communicate with the property owners. Two weeks prior, you will receive a notice from the contractor informing you of the week in which your visit is scheduled. The emptying period begins each year at the end of the spring thaw (around May 15th and ends on December 1st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I don’t want to have my septic tank emptied. Do I have the right to refuse?</td>
<td>Municipal regulations governing the septic tank emptying program are clear on this question: every septic tank must be emptied in accordance with the established emptying frequency. Every citizen who refuses to have their tank emptied must, in addition to paying the tax prescribed, comply with the emptying frequency stipulated by provincial regulation Q-2, r.22. The Municipality has the right to issue a fine to any property owner who contravenes current regulations on septic systems inspection and maintenance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. It’s the winter and I need to have my septic tank emptied immediately for various reasons. Will the Municipality take care of this?</td>
<td>No: the by-law states that if a tank is emptied outside of the emptying period at the request of the property owner or occupant, this is his responsibility and at his expense, and must be done by the contractor appointed by the Municipality at the agreed price (including taxes) of 142,00 $ for selective emptying and 192,00 $ for complete emptying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. It’s the summer and I need to have my septic tank emptied immediately for various reasons. Will the Municipality take care of this?</td>
<td>The septic tank emptying program is able to provide this service at a preferred rate by grouping service calls in the same area. Emergency emptying is considered to be additional to the program. Any additional emptying is the responsibility of and at the expense of the property owner and must be carried out by the contractor appointed by the Municipality at the agreed price (including taxes) of 142,00 $ for selective emptying and 192,00 $ for complete emptying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. I expect my holding tank to be full and need emptying at the end of the summer, but it is scheduled for emptying in the spring. Is it possible to change the date and avoid having to pay for an additional emptying?</td>
<td>Unfortunately, in the interest of fairness, the Municipality is unable to assume responsibility for this situation. The contractor appointed by the Municipality is in charge of planning and scheduling the emptying of the tanks. If you are in this situation, contact the contractor who may be able to accommodate your request. Note that all service calls must be made within the emptying period. The emptying period begins each year at the end of the spring thaw (mid-May) and ends on December 1st.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Installing a waste water treatment system

You must obtain a permit from the Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge prior to installing, modifying or replacing a septic system.

The permit request must be accompanied by the following documents and information:

- A site plan;
- The building’s capacity (number of bedrooms or, in the case of a non-residential building, total daily water flow);
- A plan and characterization study carried out by an engineer or technologist (if the system is for a non-residential building, the information and documents mentioned must be prepared et signed by an engineer who is a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec);
- Attestation of compliance. Following completion of the work, the designated officer must be provided with a certificate prepared by an engineer or technologist confirming that the work was carried out in compliance with the Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings (Q-2, r.22).

The Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge reserves the right to request further documents and/or plans to complete its analysis of the application.

Within 45 working days following the submission of all required documents, the municipal inspector will deliver the requested permit provided that the planned work complies with town planning by-laws. Otherwise, it will inform the applicant of the reasons for the refusal to provide the permit. Permit request forms are available on the Municipal website at http://gslr.ca/services-municipaux/aménagement-du-territoire/permis-et-certificats/applying-for-a-permit/?lang=en

Credits

Some of the content of this guide was developed by the Ville de Sherbrooke for its pamphlet entitled “A Resident’s Guide to Septic Systems”, to which it owns the content usage rights. The content of this guide was adapted for the specific context of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge by Oriana Farina, Environmental Inspector. All rights reserved.

Acknowledgment

The Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge would like to thank the Ville de Sherbrooke for allowing us to use and adapt their septic systems guide to prepare our own.

References and sources of information


ROBVQ. L’installation septique. URL : https://robvq.qc.ca/telecharger/?get%7Cpublic/documents-guides/cyanos/septiques/installation.pdf


88 Rue des Érables
Grenville-sur-la-Rouge
QC J0V 1B0
Telephone: 819 242 8762
Fax: 819 242 9341

Visit our website
www.gslr.ca