Septic Systems and Wells

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Septic Systems

- Most of sewage treatment is done in leachfield and unsaturated soil
- Tank protects leachfield and does initial treatment
- Minimize water use, solids, and grease
- Have the tank pumped every 5-10 years
- Don’t park or build over the leachfield
- Know your septic system! Especially when buying or selling: Check County records.
Septic System
Septic Tank

The diagram illustrates a septic tank with two compartments. The first compartment contains sludge, scum, and liquid layers, with an input baffle and access points. Similarly, the second compartment also has sludge, scum, and liquid layers, with an output baffle and access points.
Leachfield Risers
Distribution Box and Valves
Septic Tank Risers
Find and use your diversion valves, if you have them...
Septic Systems in the Winter

- Direct runoff away from your tank and leachfield
- Monitor the level in the risers, look for soggy areas
- If the level gets high, switch leachfields and/or cut back on water use
- If you getsurfacing effluent, have the tank pumped and cut way back on water use
Wells

- Clean leaves dirt and debris from well head
- Direct runoff away from the well head
- Watch for leaks in your system
- Monitor your groundwater level
- Consider a meter
- Groundwater management efforts
  - Pajaro Valley
  - Mid-County
  - Santa Margarita
Keep the well area clean and well-drained, plug holes
Depth Measurement

Access port (sealed with blue plastic plug)
Private Well Measurements

Northern Portion of Basin

Groundwater Elevation ft

Between Aptos and Valencia Creeks

Groundwater Elevation ft
Consider installing a meter
Wells can affect streams

Pumping wells can draw down the water table
Santa Margarita Geology
West to East
Santa Cruz County
Groundwater Basins
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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