

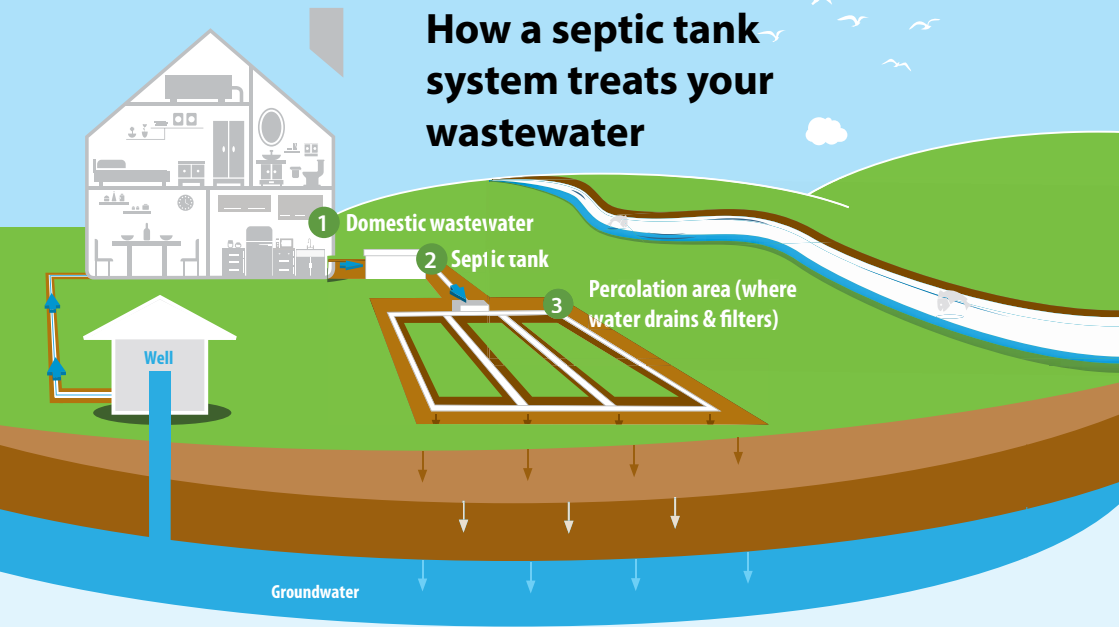
What you need to know about Septic Tank Inspections 2022-2026

As part of our commitment to protecting public health and the environment, Kilkenny Local Authority will be conducting inspections of septic tanks in our area as outlined in the National Inspection Plan (NIP) 2022-2026. This plan is essential for ensuring that all septic tank systems meet the necessary standards set by legislation.



Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

How a septic tank system treats your wastewater



Why Are Inspections Important?

Septic tanks are a key component of wastewater management for many households. Regular inspections help to:

- **Protect Public Health:** Prevent untreated wastewater from contaminating water sources.
- **Support the Environment:** Ensure that our local ecosystems remain healthy.
- **Avoid Future Issues:** Identify problems early to prevent costly repairs and environmental damage.

Legislation Overview

The inspections are conducted under the following legislation:

- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017
- Building Regulations (Amendment) 2005

These regulations require the Local Authority to ensure that septic tanks are functioning properly and do not pose a risk to public health or the environment.



What to Expect During an Inspection

Notification: You will receive a letter from us to inform you of the inspection schedule. Inspections will be conducted over a period of time as per the NIP.

- The inspector will walk the site to confirm location of the infiltration area and septic or other system such as secondary treatment system etc.
- Check the relevant system for breakout of effluent on the surface, presence of odour, signs of grey water by-passing the treatment system.
- Check level of liquid and sludge in tank/ system.
- Check manholes covers and risers for structural integrity and water tightness.
- Where relevant- check that 1. power is connected 2. pumps, motors and/or blowers are functioning.
- Where relevant checks will be carried out that there is no direct discharge of effluent to watercourse and/ or drains.

Possible Outcomes of the Inspection

Pass: If your septic tank meets the required standards, there's nothing more to do until the next inspection cycle.

Minor Issues: If issues are found, you'll receive guidance on how to resolve them.

Major Issues: Significant problems may require immediate action. We will work with you to ensure compliance. The inspection will not involve trial holes or percolation tests. Where the inspector is of the opinion that the Owner of a premises connected to DWWTs has contravened either the Act (The Water Services Act (No. 30 of 2007) or the Regulations (S.I No. 223 of 2012)- i.e. where the DWWTs constitutes, or is likely to constitute, a risk to human health or the environment, the inspector shall immediately notify the Owner of the premises and shall, within 21 days of the inspection, notify the WSA concerned, in each case stating the reasons for his/her opinion.

De-sludging frequency chart

De-sludging frequency (1 to 5 years) for various sizes of tank and occupants (EPA CoP Table 12.2). Owner/ occupier should keep the receipts for a period of five years and that this will be requested as proof during our inspection.

Grant for Septic Tanks

It is important to note that grants do not cover maintenance. It is also important to note that you cannot attain a grant through a process of self-referral unless you are located in a High Status Objective Area.



High Status Objective Areas

This is in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and the applicant must have received a letter from the local authority confirming eligibility to apply for a grant. You can check if you are in one of these areas by inputting your Eircode on the <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5eaae1b83cf84197b1f184a5ef7c2696>



Prioritised Area for Action

In order to be eligible for this grant, the DWWTs serving a house must be situated in a Prioritised Area for Action in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and the applicant must have received a letter from the Local Authority Waters Programme Office on behalf of the local authority, confirming eligibility to apply for a grant. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6cc1e-domestic-waste-water-treatment-systems-septic-tanks/>



National Inspection Plan

They cover remediation, repair, upgrade, or replacement of a domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTs) serving a house.

Under the River Basin Management plan to 2022-2027, Kilkenny are responsible for carrying out the following minimum inspection:

43 No. of Inspections in Zone 1

178 No. of Inspections in Zone 2

25 No. of inspections in Zone 3

The Terms and Conditions for the scheme can be found at: www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/277954/b249f88f-5934-4086-a721-f58df6f916d1.pdf#page=null



To find out more, contact Kilkenny County Council at environment@kilkennycoco.ie or call 056 779 4470.