

# *Ambassador Inspections*

The importance of having a septic inspection.





On the outside, this home looks great; but what about the **things you can't see**, like the septic system?





*The house has a  
nice pool.*

Code says that the pool is to be 15 feet from any part of the septic system, but this pool was constructed over the septic lines. If the pool is drained, the water will go into the leach lines, and the chemicals will kill the bacteria that help keep the lines functioning properly.



*The house has a  
nice patio...*

... except it is on top of the  
septic tank. Without a septic  
inspection, you might not know  
where the tank is.

Every time the septic tank needs  
to be pumped, part of the patio  
will have to be torn up.





*This is what a good outlet tee looks like.*

All septic tanks installed after the year 2000 have this style of outlet tee because it is non-corrosive. However, if the outlet filter is not cleaned often enough, the septic tank can still back up.





## *This outlet tee corroded off.*

This outlet tee has corroded off and is now letting the solids in this tank go out into the leach field.

The red circle indicates the outlet pipe. There should be a wall in front of the outlet pipe to keep the solids inside the septic tank.

Because this outlet tee has failed, the leach field may not function properly.

Buyers should be aware of these issues prior to purchasing a home.



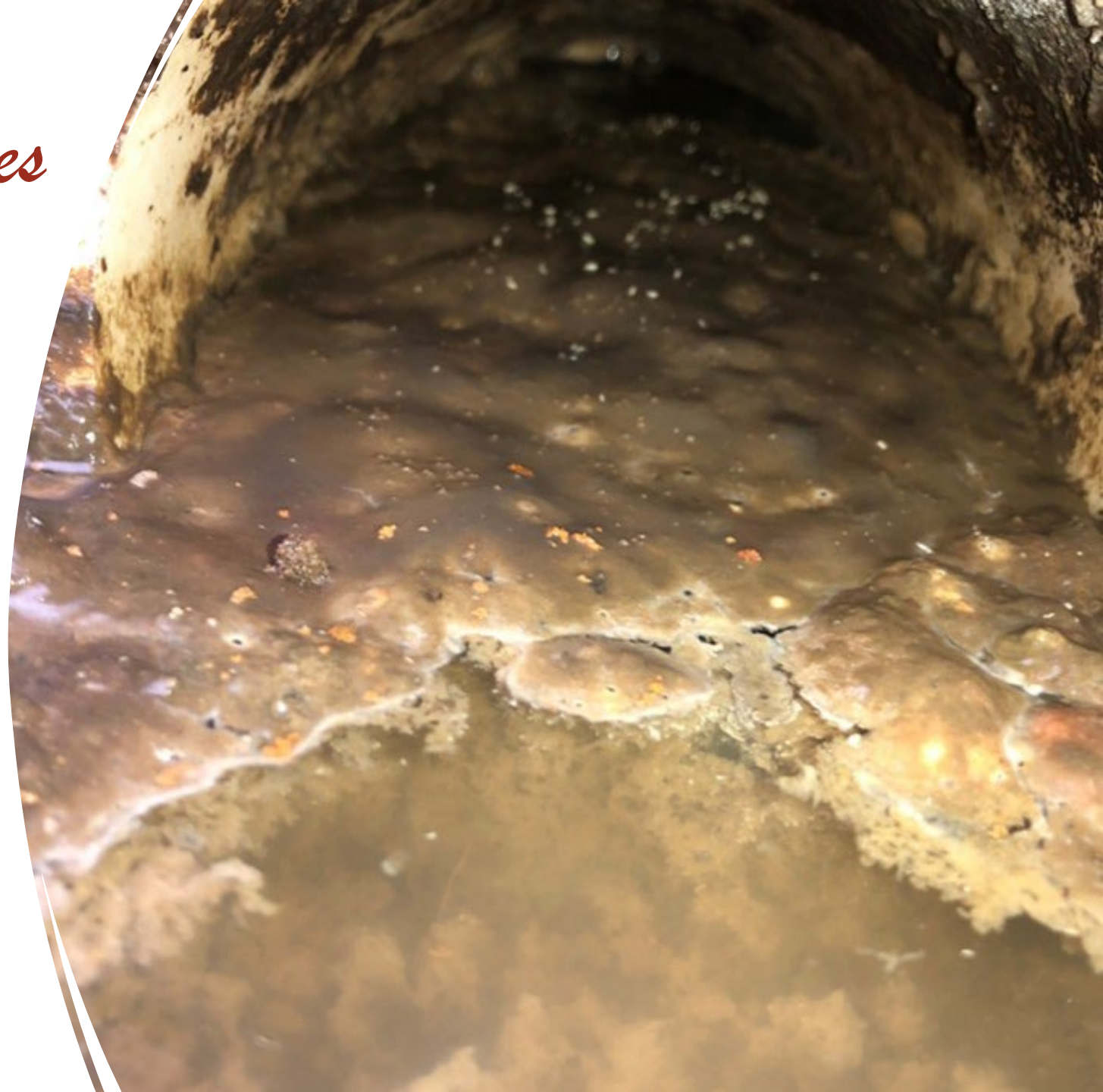


*This is one of the leach lines  
leaving the distribution box.*

This line is full of solids from the septic tank. The outlet tee had failed, resulting in solids leaving the tank and going out into the leach field.

This septic system is failing.

Knowing this before buying the home can save potential buyers thousands.





*This water build-up is called surfacing or ponding.*

Surfacing can indicate a few different issues, such as...

- leaking toilets or faucets.
- tree roots blocking one or more lines.
- long periods of rain added to the normal use of water in the house.

A septic inspection can help find issues like this.





## *This is a distribution box.*

This distribution box has corroded through, allowing ground water and dirt to come into the box, flow out into the leach field, and clog the lines.

This box needs to be replaced.

Buyers should be aware of this issue prior to purchasing a home instead of after, when it could cost them thousands.





# *This is part of the state inspection form.*

One of the biggest disputes is whether to have the septic tank pumped before or after the inspection. The answer is after.

The highlighted question on this form is “Is the water level relative to the tank outlet?” If the tank is pumped prior to the inspection, dropping the water level below the outlet tee, then there is no way to know.

The only way for the water to leave the tank is through the outlet pipe, unless there is a leak.

I always ask that the tank is pumped after the inspection.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gallons per day for designed system size or number of bedrooms as stated in available information

☒ Inspection shall include any part of the system located more than 5 feet from the primary structure the operations permit

☐ Copy of Operations permit from \_\_\_\_\_ County Environmental Health Department

☐ Operations permit not available

☐ System requires a certified subsurface water pollution control system operator pursuant to G.S. 153-100

Current Operator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Most recent performance, operation and maintenance reports are ☐ attached ☐ not attached

Type of water supply ☒ Well ☐ Public Water ☐ Community Water ☐ Spring

Location of Septic Tank and septic tank details:

\_\_\_\_\_ ft from house or structure

\_\_\_\_\_ ft from well if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ ft from water line if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ ft. from property line if said property lines are known or marked

\_\_\_\_\_ distance from finished grade to top of tank or access riser

Access riser(s) ☐ yes ☒ no Describe \_\_\_\_\_

Tank lids intact ☐ yes ☒ no

Tank has baffle wall ☐ yes ☒ no Describe condition of baffle wall: \_\_\_\_\_

Inflow to tank is noted as sufficient

Inflow to tank is noted as insufficient or blocked

Water level in tank is relative to tank outlet

Outlet T is present ☐ yes ☒ no Describe condition of Outlet T: \_\_\_\_\_

Outlet has filter ☐ yes ☒ no Describe condition of filter: \_\_\_\_\_

Effluent leaves the outlet ☐ yes ☒ no

Roots present in tank ☐ yes ☒ no Describe extent of roots: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of tank leakage Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of non-permitted connections, such as downspouts or sump pumps

Connection present from house to tank

Connection present from tank to next component

Percentage of solids in tank \_\_\_\_\_

Unable to locate tank. System inspection cannot be completed until tank is located

Date tank was last pumped \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ unknown

Client requesting this inspection has been advised that for a complete inspection to be performed the tank must be pumped. Client has declined to have the tank pumped at inspection and hereby acknowledges the consequences.

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## *In conclusion...*

Septic inspections identify common issues such as...

- Failed outlet tees.
- Clogged leach lines.
- Malfunctioning pumps, control panels, distribution and manifold boxes, floats, and filters.
- Pool and patio installations that do not meet code regarding septic systems.
- Surfacing that could indicate overwhelmed, broken, or blocked lines.

All of the above could cost buyers thousands in unnecessary repair costs if not addressed prior to purchasing a home, when it would be possible for buyers to negotiate with sellers for the cost of repairs.

### **Contact Information:**

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