

Why do I need to check my septic tank if it isn't causing problems?

Imagine someone who is trying to sell you a car said, "It runs great! It has 230,000 miles on it and I've never even had to change the oil!" It is safe to assume this car has or will definitely have problems.

This analogy is similar for your home septic system because it is not always apparent when a septic system is not functioning properly, so it is crucial to keep up with regular inspections and maintenance.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, septic tanks should be pumped and inspected every 1-3 years.

Impact to local waterways and your health.

- 💧 Beach/river/boat launch closings due to *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) levels.
- 💧 *E. coli* is an indicator species used to test for fecal contamination.
- 💧 Fecal contamination carries dangerous pathogens that can harm human health and even cause death.
 - Symptoms of exposure can be flu-like.
 - Bacteria can infect wounds.
- 💧 The Chippewa, North Branch of the Chippewa, and Salt rivers have been found to have significantly higher inputs of *E. coli*.
- 💧 Much of the input is due to residential and commercial absence of or failing septic systems.

SCIT Planning Department

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact SCIT Water Quality Staff at:

989.775.4014

www.sagchip.org/planning/

2451 Nish-Na-Be-Anong Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Program

POWTS

To help protect our waters



**Working Together To
Protect Our Environment**



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How can I be a part of the **SOLUTION?**

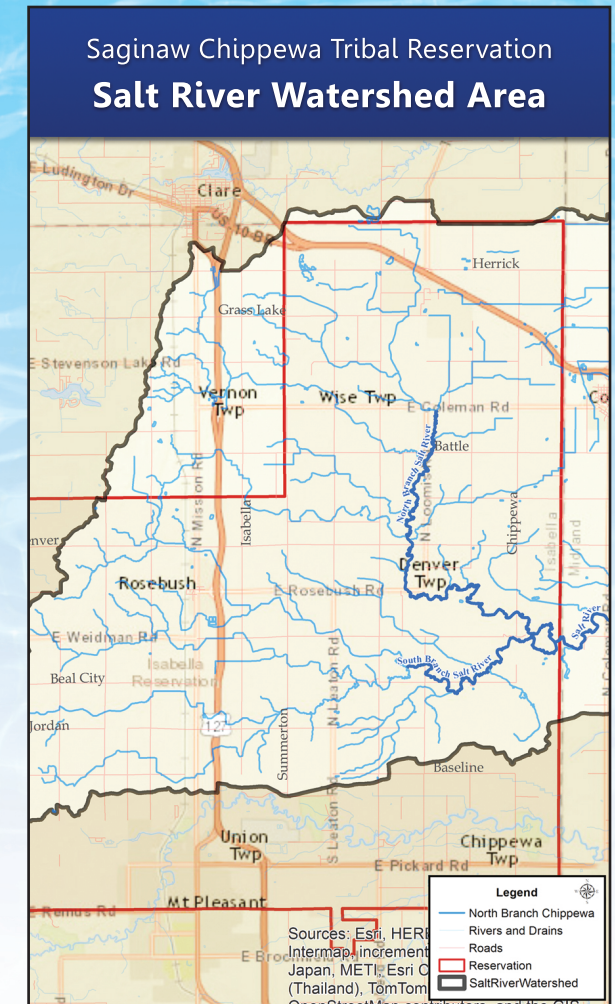
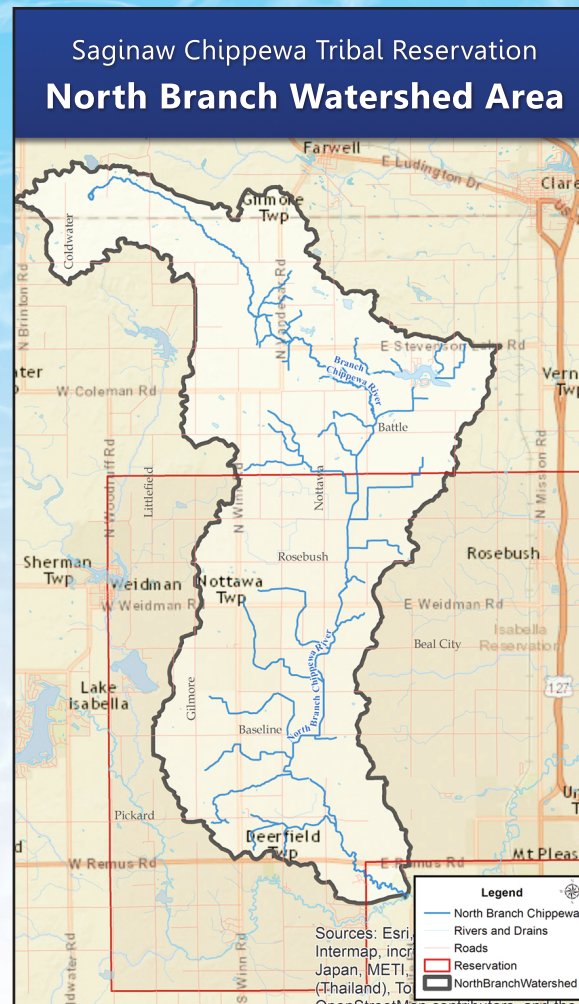
As homeowners, you can have a significant impact on the levels of bacteria in local water bodies.

- 💧 Maintain your septic system
- 💧 Sign up for POWTS:
 - Especially if you live in the Salt River watershed or the North Branch of the Chippewa River watershed.
 - These are the areas most impacted by septic system failure locally. *(See maps for locations.)*
- 💧 Time is running out to sign up!
- 💧 If you are interested in this offer, call or stop in the Planning Department.

What is **POWTS?**

Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Program

- 💧 A voluntary, free, and non-regulatory program.
- 💧 A collaborative program between Indian Health Services, the Central Michigan District Health Department, and SCIT.
- 💧 Will pump and inspect septic systems.
- 💧 The services alone are worth \$500 with the potential to save you thousands!



Am I qualified for this amazing offer?

In order to qualify for your free, voluntary septic pump and inspection, you must:

- 💧 Be a Tribal Member.
- 💧 Own your home.
- 💧 The septic tank must be at your primary residence.
- 💧 The septic tank must be located within Arenac, Midland, Clare, Missaukee, or Isabella Counties.