

# Septic Tank Lid Safety

## Prevent a Tragedy



People do accidentally fall into septic tanks. In most cases, the person who falls in is able to get out without serious injury. But a child's tragic death is a reminder to inspect your septic system for damaged or missing lids.

Take these precautions to make sure no one accidentally falls into your septic tank.

- Know where your septic system lids or covers are located.
- Routinely inspect the condition of the lids for hazards or problems.
- Keep the lids secure by repairing or replacing all damaged or missing parts.
- Use bolts, screws, or other locks to secure the lids and prevent easy access.
- Never drive or park vehicles on top of septic systems – it can damage or dislodge the cover.
- Never leave an open lid unattended when inspecting or having your septic system pumped. Make sure the lids are secured after working on your septic system.
- Teach children that the septic tank lids are not to be played on or opened.

Owners of septic systems are responsible for ensuring their systems are safe and functioning properly, including having secure lids on the tanks.

Lids are usually made of either concrete or green plastic.

## Finding Your Septic System

If you can't find the opening to your septic tank, contact Geauga Public Health. If the health department has previously issued permits for the system, there may be a drawing of the septic tank location on file. All septic and well information on file at the health department is public record and available upon request. If no records are found, contact a registered septic service provider or pumper — they have experience finding difficult-to-spot tanks. Many systems are completely buried, so your system may not have lids at the surface.



**Gauga Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.