



## Facts About: Septic System Enhancements

### Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

#### Septic System Enhancements

Nitrogen from septic systems can be a significant source of Chesapeake Bay pollution. On average, an estimated 30 pounds (lbs) of nitrogen is released by a septic system yearly into the subsurface soil. This will eventually reach surface waters. Alternative best management practices (BMPs) like **denitrifying septic systems**, **septic pumping**, or the **connection of the waste stream to a wastewater treatment plant**, can dramatically reduce a system's nitrogen load. Denitrifying septic systems are more advanced systems that remove greater amounts of nitrogen. Septic pumping is pumping wastewater from traditional septic systems without denitrification technology in order to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering groundwater and making its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Wastewater removed from septic systems via pumping is treated at a wastewater treatment plant. It is delivered to the plant via tanker truck rather than a dedicated pipe conveyance system. Connection to a wastewater treatment plant is the removal or disconnection of a house's septic system and subsequent connection of the house's wastewater stream to a municipal sewer system. Reducing the nitrogen load protects against algal blooms, low oxygen, and fish kills in the Bay.



*House with septic system*



*Connection of the waste stream to a wastewater treatment plant*

#### Design Variants

- Denitrifying septic systems
- Septic pumping
- Septic connections to waste water treatment plants

#### Pollutant Removal Efficiencies

- Actual load reductions/efficiencies are reported by local health departments
- Septic system credits only apply to impervious acre requirements

#### More Information

For information on specific practices, contact your local health department.