

**TAKE OUR SURVEY AND LET US
KNOW YOUR SANITARY WASTE
MANAGEMENT PREFERENCE**

Our last newsletter mentioned that the Linn Sanitary District is considering re-visiting different sanitary waste management options for its residents. Fifteen years ago the Linn Sanitary District's residents preferred the use of private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) over other options. The Linn Sanitary District Commissioners have worked hard to assure that the use of POWTS has not contaminated the groundwater and Geneva Lake. We have inspected over 1,300 POWTS and over 400 wells that indicate we have been successful with our protection efforts.

Things change. We would like to know if the District's residents still favor the use of POWTS as the principle means of sanitary waste management. We ask you to take part in our Districtwide on-line survey. Using an application called Survey-Monkey, we have developed a very simple survey to complete. If you are uncomfortable with using the internet to let us know your preference, contact us and we will send you a hard copy of the survey that you can complete and mail back to us.

In mid-June, a link to the survey will be found on the District's web site. Click on the link and answer the four (4) simple questions and add any relevant comments. We will be collecting survey responses until August 31, 2016. If there are not enough responses to make a fair assessment, we may follow-up with a mail survey. Our similar survey in 1990 had just over 1,000 respondents. Please visit our web site (<http://townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm>) and complete our survey. Your input is important to us, the District and Geneva Lake. We thank you.



LINN SANITARY DISTRICT

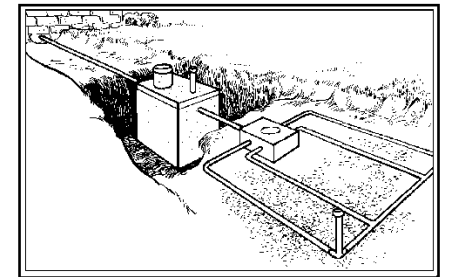
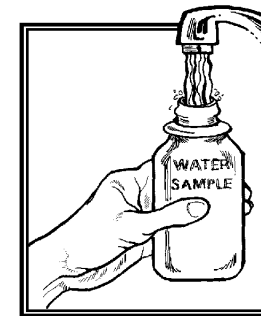
P.O. Box 949
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
262-245-4532
<http://www.townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm>

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

-LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE – SURVEY MONKEY
-WHAT TYPE OF SEPTIC SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE?
TEST YOUR DRINKING WATER WELL

June 2016

*-FOR OUR HEALTH-
-AND GENEVA LAKE'S PROTECTION-*



WELL TESTING CONSIDERATION

Over the years, the Linn Sanitary District has encouraged its residents to annually test their private wells for drinking water suitability. Specifically, we encourage our residents to do annual testing for bacteria. Not as likely to change in a year but important for occasional testing is the nitrate level in drinking water. Walworth County Public Health has a lab that can do both bacteria and nitrate analysis for under \$75. A cheap price to pay to assure your drinking water is potable and the groundwater is not polluted.

During the summer of 2014 over 400 private drinking water wells around Geneva Lake were tested for bacteria and nitrates. Generally speaking, the results indicated that for the wells and parameters tested, the groundwater offers a potable drinking water supply. However, this is only one sample that represent a single time.

The District is discussing the possibility of establishing a once a year testing of selected locations for several years. This would give us a bit more information about groundwater quality than a one-time sample. More needs to be worked out on this project. If interested in partaking in this study watch our future newsletters and website as this project becomes finalized.

In the meantime, consider sampling and testing your well. You can either do it yourself or you can hire a plumber to come and do it for you. If you are going to do it yourself contact Walworth County Public Health at 262-741-3140 for more info and bottles or contact the Linn Sanitary District at 262-245-4532.

There is a need to use special sterilized bottles and to get the sample to the lab within 24 hrs. So coordination with the lab is important.

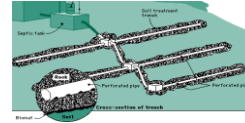
THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF POWTS

In our last newsletter we showed you the different Sub-Areas in the District to help you better answer that question in our survey. You will also be asked to identify the type of system you have. To help you answer this question we would like to define the different type of systems that you are given to choose from. The options you will be given are:

- **I have a septic tank and drain field or trench.** This includes a septic tank and a soil absorption system with a series of long trenches or a drain field with a series of short distribution pipes.

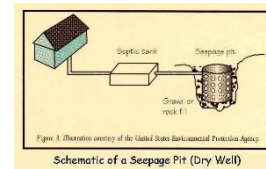


Septic tank with a drain field



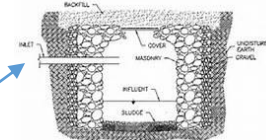
Septic tank with trenches

- **I have a septic tank and drywell.** This system includes a septic tank and another tank like structure that discharge the effluent to the soil.



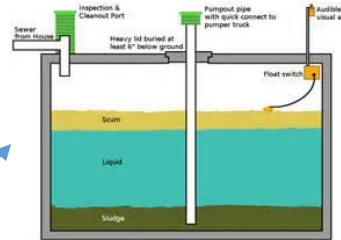
Septic tank and drywell

- **I have a cesspool.** A cesspool is just one tank that discharges effluent directly to the soil. Generally, there is no outlet pipe.



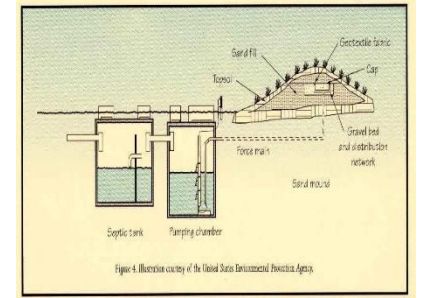
cesspool

- **I have a holding tank.** A holding tank is a sealed tank with only an inlet pipe and no outlet of any type. These need to be pumped frequently and require an annual report to the County.



Holding tank

- **I have a mound system.** A mound defines the soil absorption system (SAS) where soil is brought in and mounded. The dispersal pipes are then placed on top of the mound to discharge to the mound's good soil.



Schematic of a Sand Mound System

- **I have a septic tank with a pump station and drain field.** This type of system uses a pump to move the effluent through the below grade drain field/trench. An example would be a low pressure system.

Septic tank, pumping tank and mound.

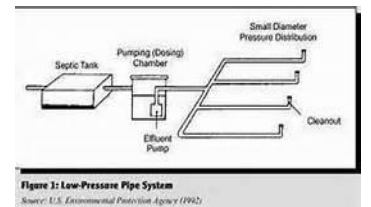
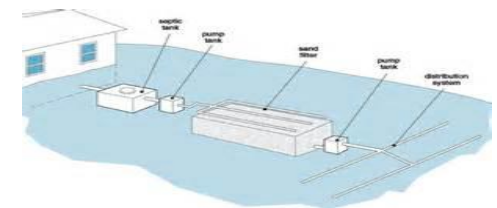


Figure 3: Low-Pressure Pipe System
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)

- **I have a system that includes advance treatment processes.** This would be a system with a septic tank that discharges to a secondary treatment process such as a sand filter or fixed activated sludge treatment tank and then to the SAS. These systems require high maintenance.

A low pressure system w/ pump



Note the additional treatment tank between the septic tank and the drain field.