

Source Protection Program
Applicant Guide:
Septic System Inspections and Upgrades


WHY APPLY FOR THIS FUND?

To protect municipal groundwater and surface water sources through repairing, upgrading or replacing part or all of faulty or malfunctioning septic systems. Not maintaining your septic system can result in contamination of drinking water sources and can cause serious environmental and health problems.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible to receive funding for the following projects, the applicant's property must be within or extend into a 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius of a municipal surface water intake.

- Replace septic tank and leaching bed
- Replace septic tank and/or holding tank only
- Replace leaching bed only
- Pump septic tank
- Add plumbing connections/pump to transfer wastewater to septic tank
- Connect to a municipal sewer line *** (If this option is available, we will not fund other upgrades or replacement) ***

ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Required permits and approvals, such as building permit for approved project(s)
- Material and supplies
- Contract labour (e.g., electric and plumbing connections)
- Professional fees/technical support
- Fees for related design, inspection, and construction
- Connection fees and related work to connect to a municipal sewer line

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS & COSTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Upgrades that are part of a new home construction or home addition.
- Funding provided from additional programs/projects (e.g., Water Quality Programs) will be reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and/or its delivery partner to determine grant rate. Applicants may not apply for more than 100 percent of the total cost of their project. *(Providing inaccurate information on the portion of project funding received by other agencies is an offence).*

GRANT RATE: MAXIMUM 50%

GRANT CEILING: \$10,000 FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

GRANT CEILING: \$20,000 FOR ADVANCED SEPTIC SYSTEMS (SEE PAGE 2)

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PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS

- For the 2007-08 funding, applicant's property must be within or extend into a 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius of a municipal surface water intake (*Please contact your local conservation authority for more information*).
- The proposed inspection, upgrade, repair, and request for funding are subject to approval by the delivery agent to ensure compliance within acceptable standards and for confirmation of funding availability/eligibility.
- Funding provided from additional programs/projects (e.g., Water Quality Programs) will be reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment and/or its delivery agent to determine grant rate. Therefore, funding from other projects and programs must be disclosed to the delivery agent. Failure to disclose this information or false disclosure of this information is an offence.
- Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible projects, until all funds are allocated or March 31, 2008, whichever occurs first.
- Septic inspections and upgrades that have recently been implemented will be eligible for funding as long as the proposed work was started after September 19, 2006, when the funding was announced.
- The Source Protection Program will cover 50 percent of the project(s) cost, with a grant ceiling of \$10,000 for the eligible projects. Alternatively, the program will cover 50 percent of the project(s) with a grant ceiling of \$20,000 for advanced septic systems.
- Advanced Septic Systems: Many contractors will offer the option to install advanced septic systems, at an additional cost, for reducing environmental impact. Examples of advanced septic systems can be found at: <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/PageFactory.aspx?PageID=50>. Also, for more information on innovated septic system designs, please contact a qualified industry professional in your local area.
- If a municipal sewer line is available, the Source Protection Program will only pay for an inspection and the costs of connection to that line. The program will pay 50% up to the \$10,000 limit. Other upgrades or replacement are not eligible in this case.
- Applicant is only eligible for one-time funding assistance for 2007-08 and may only complete one application form per septic system for their particular project(s).
- Rented land - If your project is on rented/leased land, you will need to submit a letter from the property owner with your application form indicating that he/she approves of the proposed project.

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- Funding is not available for upgrades that are part of a new home construction or home addition project.
- Applicant is responsible for ensuring that all necessary approvals and permits are obtained for the proposed project(s) (e.g., building permit).
- Systems <10,000l/day are subject to approval under the Building Code and those that are >10,000l/day are approved under the Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA).
- The applicant will be responsible for all payments and for hiring qualified industry professionals (i.e., those that meet the qualifications specified in the Building Code Act). Contact your local municipality, public health unit, or conservation authority for more information on septic inspections.
- The septic system has to be constructed, repaired, or installed by a person or company that is qualified or registered under Section 18.1 of **the Building Code Act** and Section 2.12 of **the Ontario Building Code**.
- A copy of an inspection report from a qualified industry professional/septic inspector must be submitted with the application form.
- Following the completion of the work, the applicant is responsible for submitting a statement of expenses incurred with copies of invoice(s) and building permit for the required corrective action(s). The delivery agent is not responsible for making any payments directly to industry professionals hired by the applicant.
- The proposed work that has been approved by the delivery agent must be commenced by March 15, 2008, and invoices must be submitted to the delivery agent no later than June 30, 2008 (*Please contact your delivery agent for more information*).
- The delivery agent will be permitted by the property owner to access the site where the work is being completed during and after construction for a post project inspection/verification of work.
- These early actions address a potential risk to drinking water sources. The Source Protection Plans, expected to be finalised in 2012 on a region-by-region basis, will determine the measures necessary to protect wellheads and surface water intakes. Therefore, taking early actions, like upgrading or repairing a septic system, does not exempt the property owner from implementing additional practices as determined in that local Source Protection Plan. Property owners may be required to implement additional practices in the future to continue to protect drinking water sources.