



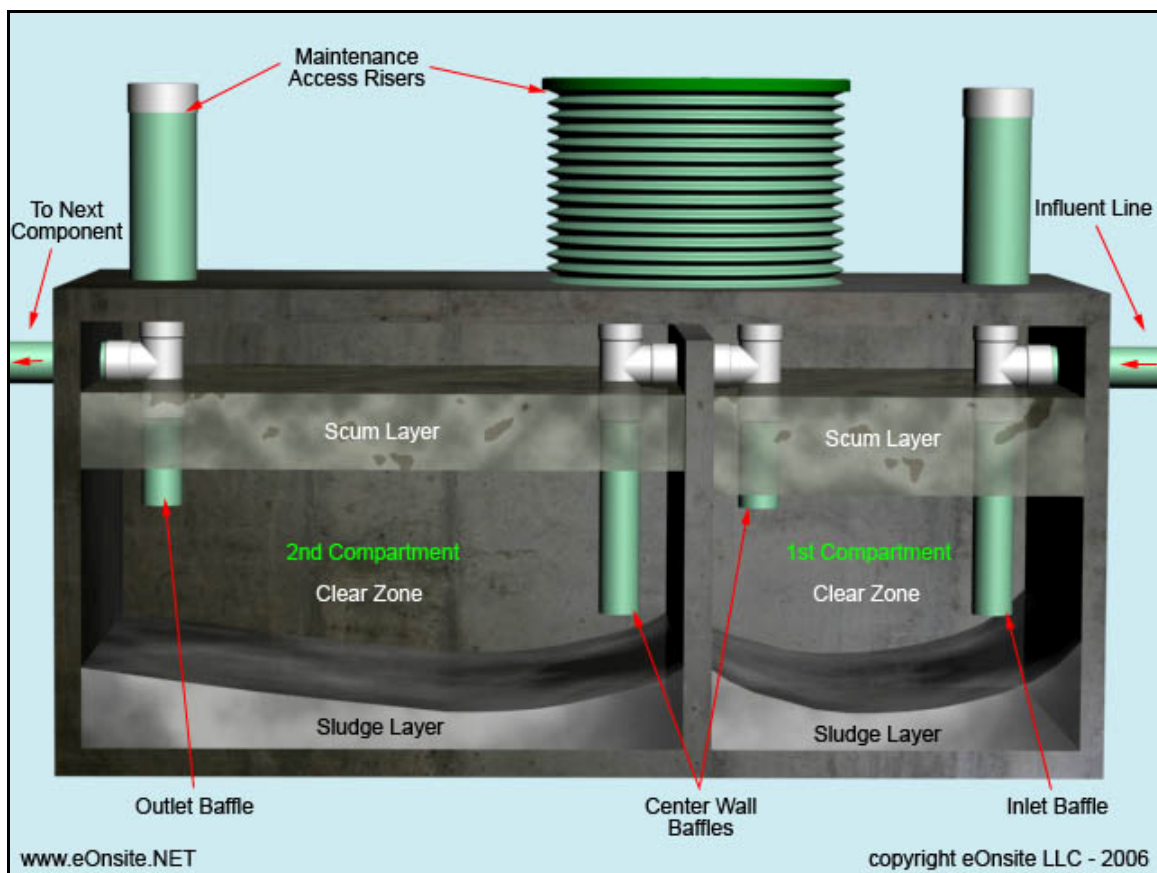
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- Effluent Septic Tanks -

Septic Tank Basics:

The effluent septic tank is designed to retain waste water and allow heavy solids to settle to the bottom. These solids are partially decomposed by bacteria to form **sludge**. Grease and light particles float, forming a layer of **scum** on top of the waste water. Baffles installed to help prevent scum and solids from escaping. Newer septic tanks can have a partial concrete dividing wall in the center, thus making two compartments. This helps ensure the sludge does not get forced out of the baffle towards the downstream component.



Proper Maintenance of the Effluent Septic Tank -

Proper maintenance of the effluent septic tank is critical for the proper long term function of the onsite sewage system. Service intervals will vary depending upon the type of onsite sewage system components that are downstream of the septic tank. Typically a trained service provider should conduct a service inspection for the following Septic Tank components every 1-3 years:

1. Check the "Sludge & Scum" levels:

- Over time Sludge and Scum may build up in the effluent septic tank. When the levels are too high the tank must be pumped to ensure that suspended solids do not make their way on to the next downstream component causing possible adverse effects.

Effluent Septic Tank Basics – eOnsite LLC

2. **Check for leaks:**
 - Look around the tank to ensure that no ground water is getting into the tank. Excess water can destroy a drainfield.
3. **Inspect Baffles:**
 - Make sure the baffles are working correctly and are in tact.
4. **Clean Effluent Filter:**
 - Many modern day effluent septic tanks will have an effluent filter installed within the outlet baffle. This filter should be removed minimally one time per year and cleaned off with a pressurized water source.

Accessibility for Maintenance -

Because the Effluent Septic Tank needs regular maintenance it is always recommended that the tank is fitted for accessibility at either time of installation or during the first maintenance of the onsite sewage system. Proper accessibility may differ between tank/system configurations but the minimums should include:

1. Risers to grade for all access points with watertight lids.

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