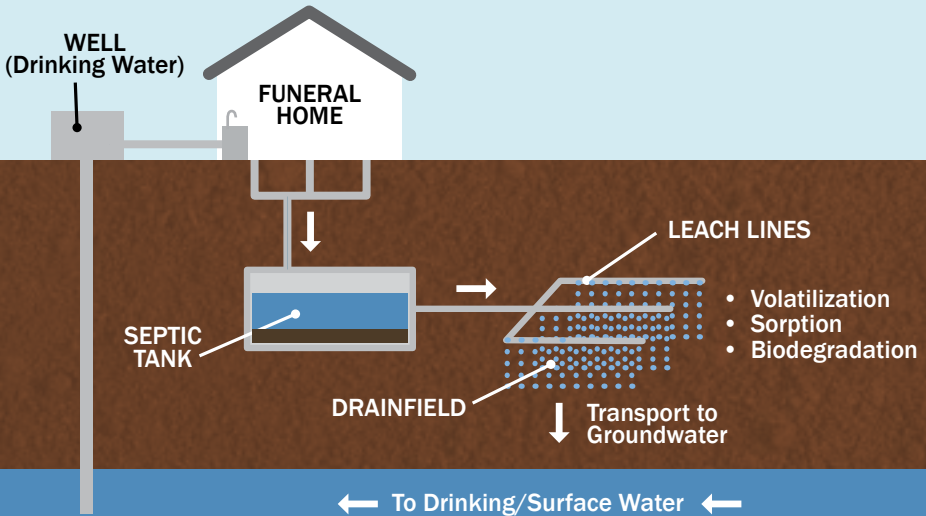


Funeral Homes with On-site Septic Systems



What Can Go to an On-site Septic System

On-site septic systems are typically only designed to handle domestic (sanitary) wastewaters from bathrooms, kitchens, or laundry devices.

What Cannot Go to an On-site Septic System

On-site septic systems are not designed to handle:

- *stormwater drainage,*
- *wastewater from roof or foundation drains,*
- *wastewaters from water softening devices, or*
- *wastewaters from industrial or commercial operations, including embalming fluids, reconstructive or other body preparation media, embalming procedure wastewaters or medical waste.*

These types of discharges are considered to be non-domestic, industrial (operational) discharges that, if disposed to an on-site system, may contaminate your property, result in exposure to contaminants, or cause your on-site system to prematurely fail.



Local health departments regulate residential sanitary wastewater systems according to the local county code and state law. For information on the local regulations for on-site septic systems, contact your local health department using the directory available at www.malph.org/directory.

How These Unwanted Materials Should be Handled

Funeral homes that practice embalming (mortuaries) should divert any of these commercially-generated (operational) wastewaters to a separate, securely contained holding tank or other temporary storage vessel approved for such use and have the contents of the holding tank removed by a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) registered, liquid industrial by-products hauler or licensed septage hauler. Any wastewater that contains EPA-regulated hazardous chemical components or pharmaceuticals may require separate handling prior to disposal. To learn more about the hazardous waste regulations, view the recorded Webinars in the DEQ's *Introduction to Hazardous Waste Webinar Series* at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste.

Additional Information

To learn more about the state regulations related to dental wastes, see the DEQ resources at the Websites below, discuss your waste needs with your waste vendor, and/or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278:

- www.michigan.gov/deqonsitewastewater
- www.michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal
- www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste

Different regulations apply when discharging to local wastewater treatment plants. For information on discharges to a waste water treatment plant, discuss your waste needs with your waste vendor and/or contact your local wastewater treatment plant using the directory available at: www.mi-wea.org/facilities_list.php and/or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.

NOT OK

Funeral Home
Embalming Fluids

Reconstructive
or Other Body
Preparation Media

Embalming
Procedure
Wastewaters

Medical Waste
(Blood, Body
Fluids, Tissue)