

TO PROPERLY INSPECT A ISTS FOR COMPLIANCE

- 1) Determining whether or not a system is failing requires you to know when it was constructed and what kind of establishment it serves. This includes the number of bedrooms and whether or not there is a garbage disposal, the exact use must be determined.
- 2) If the system was built after March 31, 1996 it must have three vertical feet of separation from the restricting (or limiting) layer, if prior to this date it must have a minimum of two feet of separation except in the SWF which must also have three feet.
- 3) Chapter 7080 states that the site must be inspected in all areas to insure proper operation.
- 4) In Minnesota onsite systems are considered failing if they do not, or may not fully treat sewage before it enters the groundwater. This is important because the failure to adequately treat sewage can cause serious problems in Minnesota's surface and groundwater, including valuable sources of drinking water.
- 5) The failure of a tank, or failure to maintain the tank, may lead to early failure of the soil treatment system. This must be checked in a complete compliance inspection to determine whether or not it is: completely sealed with no leaks or cracks throughout and whether or not the baffles are functioning correctly. This cannot be determined unless the tank is pumped right before the compliance inspection.
- 6) To determine if a system is failing you must be able to discern whether or not the system properly treats the sewage.
- 7) Setbacks must be determined from wells, other structures, and property lines.
- 8) The materials that were used in the construction must also be evaluated.