

## Troubleshooting Tips

Symptom	Possible Causes	Action
Toilets and sinks start to drain slowly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drains may be clogged.</li> <li>• Septic tank may need to be pumped out.</li> <li>• Drainfield pipe may be partially blocked.</li> <li>• Plumbing vents may not be properly connected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a plumber check the drains and vents.</li> <li>• Have a ROWP check septic tank.</li> </ul>
Extra plant growth over drainfield area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clogged soil on the bottom of the drainfield, trenches or bed causing water to pond.</li> <li>• Excess hydraulic or organic loading to the septic system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ROWP inspect septic tank and drainfield inspection ports and/or cleanouts.</li> <li>• Check water meter records for excess water usage that may indicate plumbing fixture leaks and/or inspect fixtures for leakage.</li> </ul>
Foul odours outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plumbing vents may not be properly connected.</li> <li>• Septic tank cover may not be properly sealed or covered with earth.</li> <li>• Wastewater may be ponding in the vicinity of the drainfield or surfacing nearby (see below).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have plumber check vents.</li> <li>• Have ROWP inspect septic tank and ensure the cover is sealed.</li> <li>• Inspect soil above and in the vicinity of the drainfield for excess moisture or ponded water.</li> </ul>
Foul odours inside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plumbing traps may not be properly installed.</li> <li>• Electrical conduits for septic system pump may not be properly sealed.</li> <li>• Pipe leading from house to septic tank may be broken.</li> <li>• Wastewater may be backing up into the home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have plumber inspect traps and inspect perimeter foundation drainage for presence of water during dry weather.</li> <li>• Have ROWP inspect the septic tank for the possible causes noted.</li> </ul>
Waste water backing up into home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pipe leading to septic tank may be blocked.</li> <li>• Pipe leading to drainfield may be blocked.</li> <li>• Drainfield may be damaged or clogged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ROWP inspect septic tank.</li> </ul>
Effluent breaking out to ground surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil cover over pipes may not be deep enough.</li> <li>• Pipes may not be sloped properly.</li> <li>• Part of the drainfield may have settled or been lifted by frost heave so gravity cannot drain pipes properly.</li> <li>• Distribution system may be damaged.</li> <li>• Pipes and/or soils in drainfield may be full and not able to drain properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ROWP check problems.</li> <li>• Inform Interior Health.</li> </ul>
High nitrate and/or presence of coliform bacteria in nearby wells, lakes, rivers and or streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil below drainfield may be too coarse or too shallow to adequately treat the wastewater.</li> <li>• Water table may be too close to the bottom of the drainfield.</li> <li>• Wastewater may be breaking out from the drainfield into nearby drainage courses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ROWP inspect drainfield, inspection ports or cleanouts.</li> <li>• Inform the Interior Health.</li> </ul>