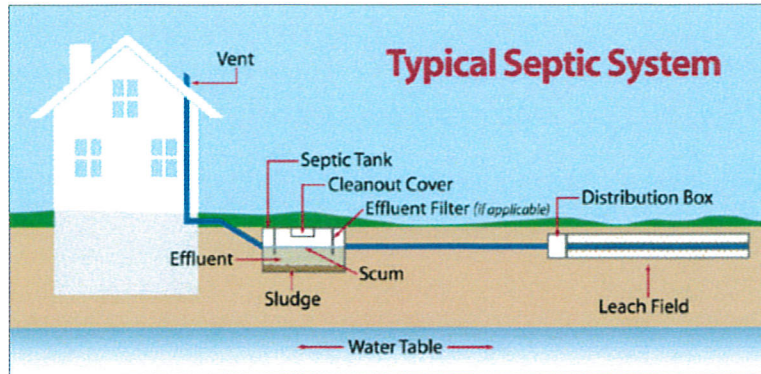


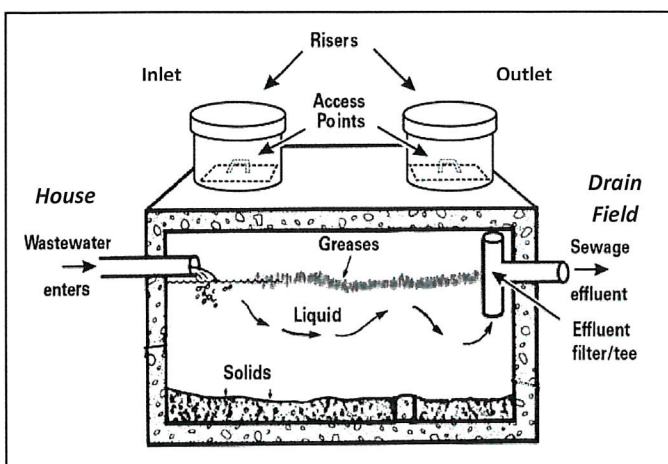
## Preparing for the Septic Evaluation

The septic evaluation includes a 15 minute flow test. This test requires that the outlet lid be removed. The outlet lid needs to be exposed and loosened prior to the evaluation. Listed below are instructions for locating the lid and preparing for the evaluation. First, check with the health department for records. Most records have a sketch showing the location of all septic components (Figure 2).

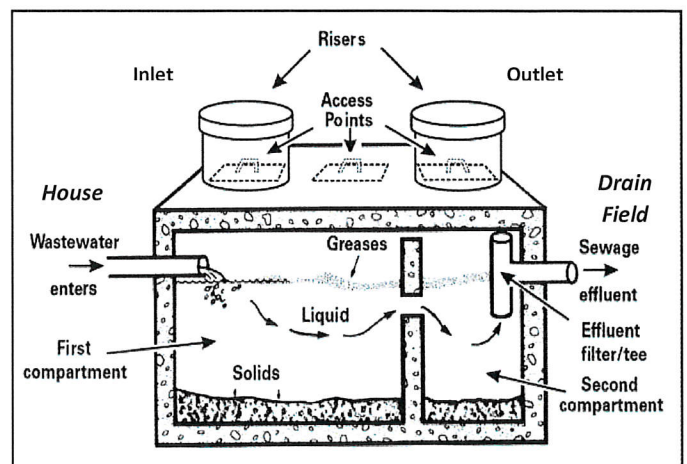


- The septic tank is normally straight out from where the building sewer exits the foundation. If the building sewer is not visible (crawl space or slab on grade construction) look for a 4" white clean out pipe at ground level next to the foundation outside of the house. Some tanks may have risers that are plastic or concrete and at grade level. If no risers are visible, then you will need to probe.
- Typically the inlet of the septic tank is about 10' from the house. Begin probing in this area and work your way out from the house until it is found. The outlet lid is generally 8' to 10' from the beginning of the tank; 5' to 7' if it is a round tank. Septic tanks are often perpendicular to the house but can also be parallel to the house. For this reason it is helpful to probe and locate all four corners of the tank. The lids are commonly centered at the beginning and end of the tank. Once the end of the tank is found, measure back 6" to 12" and start digging. To improve accuracy, probe past the outlet end of the tank to find the pipe exiting the tank (effluent line). This will assure that you are in line with the lid. **Note:** If the record shows (if available) that the septic tank has **two compartments both inlet and outlet lids** will need to be exposed. Some systems may have multiple tanks (lift station, etc.). If this is the case, make sure that all lids are uncovered.

Figure 1



One Compartment Tank

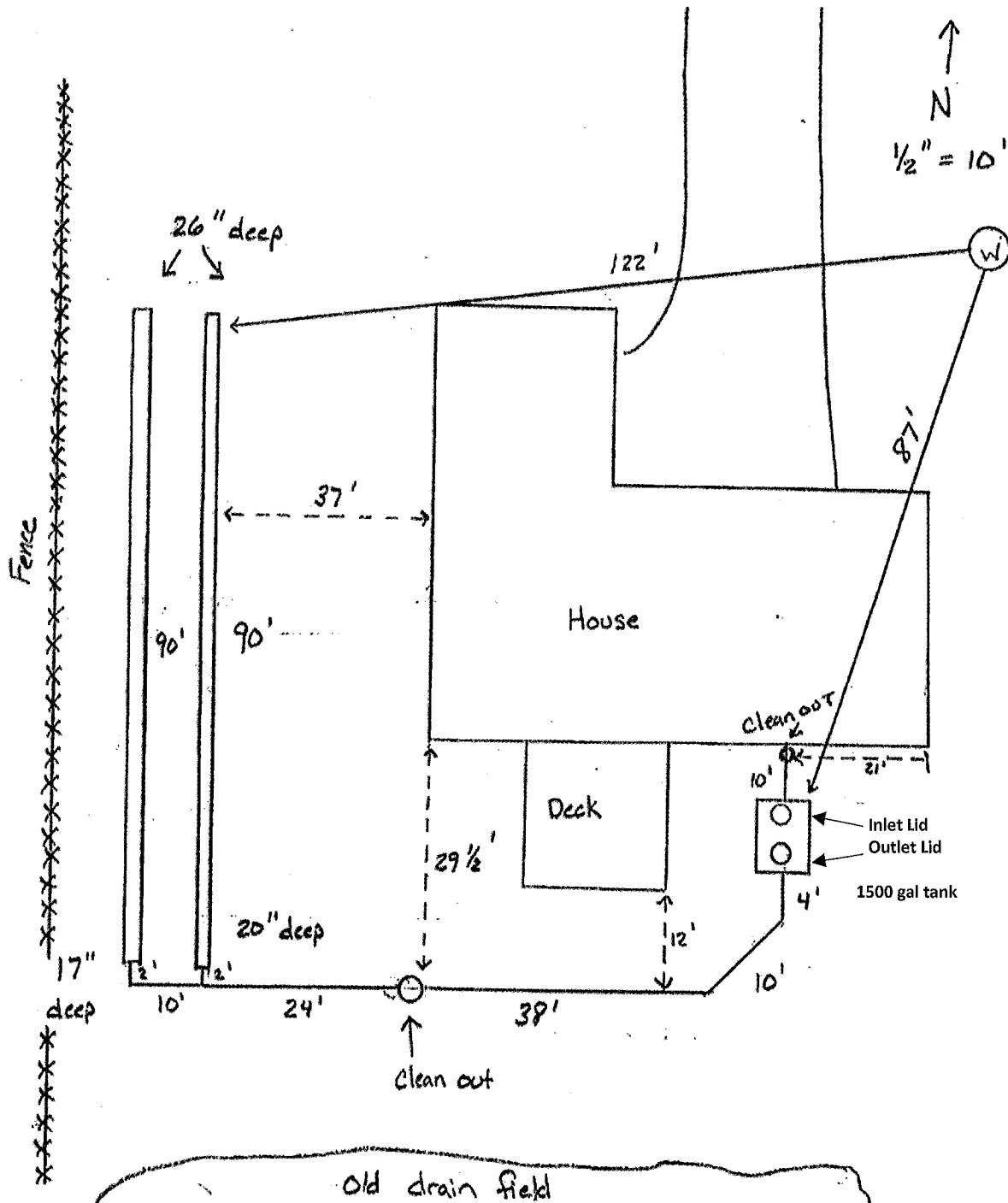


2 Compartment Tank

- Dig down and expose all edges of the lid. Lids vary in shape and size. Lids can be round, rectangular or square and can be 8" to 24" in length or diameter.
- To loosen a lid that is stuck, position the edge of a flat (crow) bar in the seam(s) between the lid and tank and tap the flat bar with a hammer until loose.

Exposing the outlet also allows the inspector to determine the condition of the outlet baffle and whether the tank needs to be pumped (cleaned). When records for the system do not exist, the exposed tank will allow the inspector to determine the tank's holding capacity and what it is constructed of.

Figure 2



Example of Sketch