

Potato Lake Septic System Dye Survey

1. Contact land owner and set up an in person time to meet to administer the dye survey
2. Record the Landowners Name, Address, Phone, and Email
3. Ask how often people are at the home, and an estimate of how many people are there each time.
4. Ask about availability for follow-up site visits; get permission to revisit the site 1 day and 3 days after dye is administered.
5. Ask the landowner if they know the type of septic system they have: holding tank, conventional, etc.
6. Ask landowner if they know the size of the holding tank or “solid waste chamber” of their system.
7. Ask landowner if they know how old the system is.
8. Ask landowner when the last time the system was pumped. (If it was within a couple of weeks of the first visit, put it off until a later date)
9. Ask if there are clothes washing facilities and where the grey water from laundry goes.
10. Present the dye to the landowner: include the bottle, label, MSDS sheet
11. Apply 4 oz to a sink that drains into the septic system if it is known the tank is 500 gallons or less.
12. Apply 8 oz to a sink that drains into the septic system, if it is known the tank is 1000 gallons, or if the tank size is unknown.
13. Apply 16 oz if the tank is known to be 2000 gallons or more
14. Conventional System:
 - a. Run all faucets in the house for 20 minutes to flush the dye and to attempt to “fill up” the tank
15. Holding Tank:
 - a. Run all faucets in the house for 10 minutes unless there are concerns from the landowner about “filling it up” and then requiring it to get pumped. Then run for only 5 minutes.
16. Walk the site with the landowner, attempt to identify parts of the system. Complete a crude sketch of the site in graph paper.
17. After approximately 1 hr look for evidence of leachate in the grass or on the ground around the system
18. Walk the shoreline of the property and look for evidence of leachate in the lake
19. After 24 hrs go back to the site and walk the land, and survey the shoreline (from a boat if possible)
20. After 72 hrs go back to the site and walk the land, and survey the shoreline (from a boat if possible)
21. Take notes and photographs (if allowed by the landowner) for all visits.