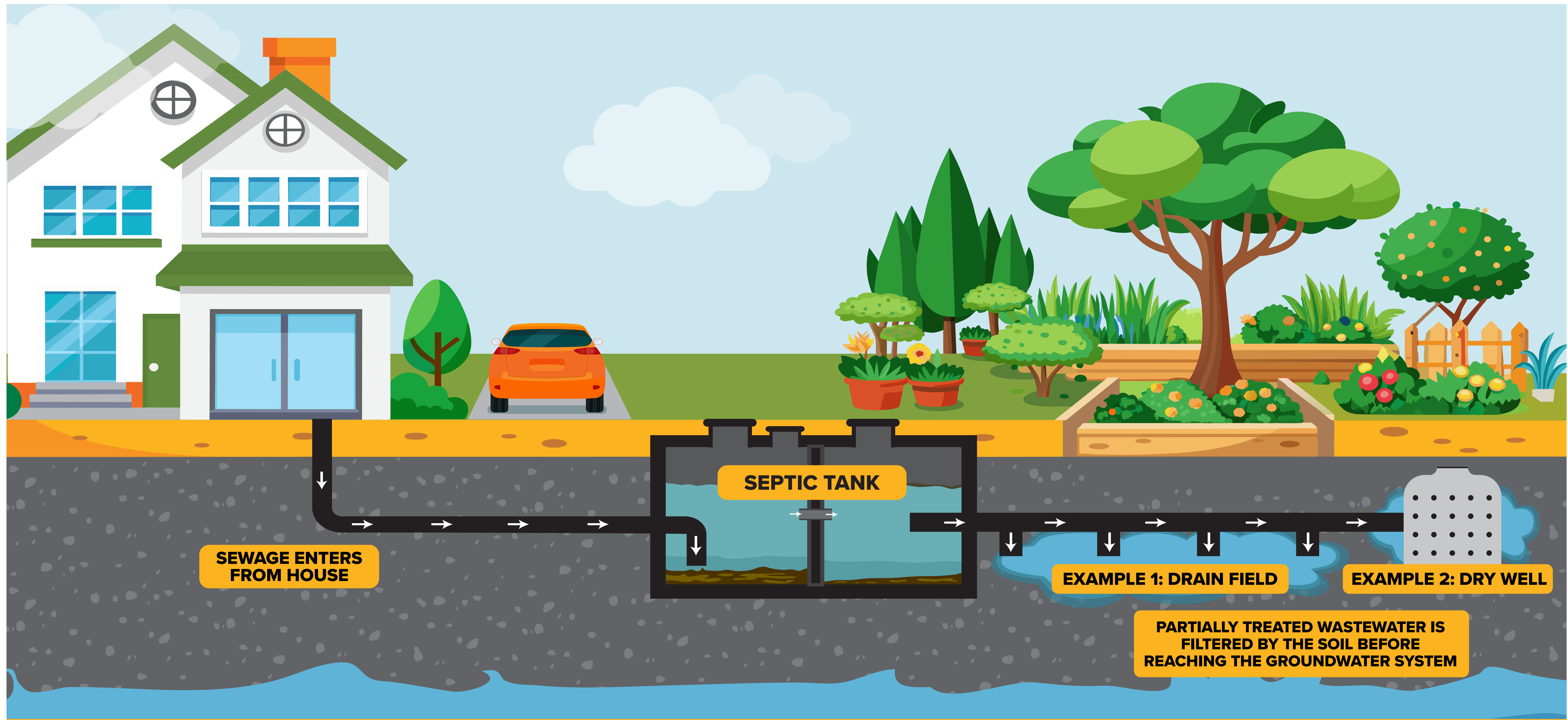


# Septic System Abandonment 101



## What to Know About Abandoning a Septic System

Once connected to sanitary sewer, the existing septic system will need to be properly abandoned. It's not enough to simply leave the old system in place. Septic tanks, cesspools, dry wells, drain fields, and related components must be properly decommissioned to prevent future risks, especially unauthorized discharge or structural collapse.

Once the septic tank has been pumped, the three main methods for handling an old septic tank include:

- **Removal:** Haul to a landfill.
- **Crushing:** Break the tank completely and fill the hole with suitable material.
- **Abandon in Place:** Fill the intact tank with approved material to prevent collapse or leaks.

Improperly abandoned systems can pose serious dangers like sinkholes, groundwater contamination or toxic gas emissions.

Even properly abandoned systems shouldn't be built over without caution, as settling or leaking could still cause problems.