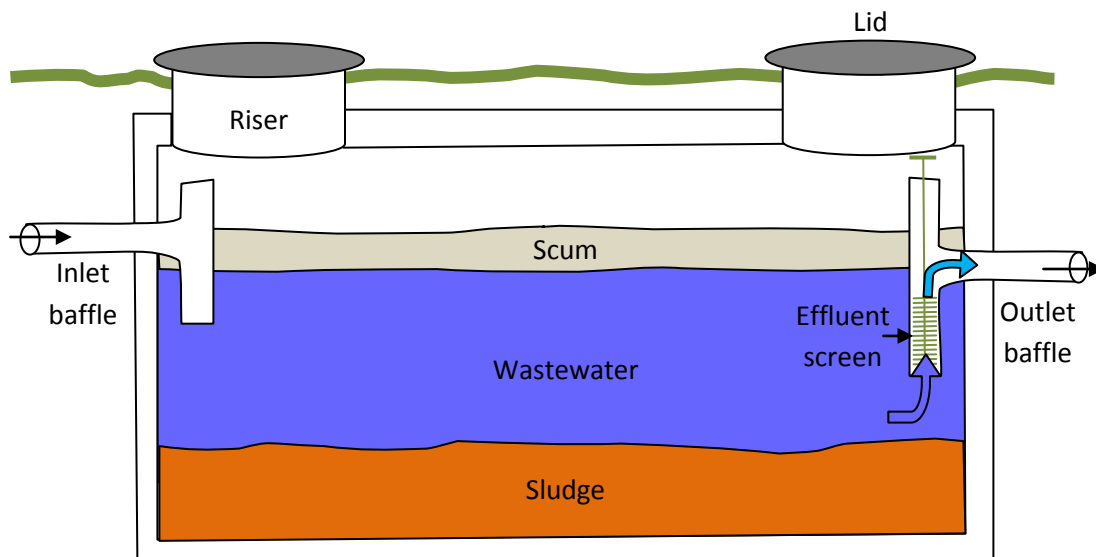


Effluent Screen

An effluent screen is an inexpensive plastic filtering device that fits into the outlet end of the septic tank. A good effluent filter prevents large solids from leaving the tank, dramatically improving the quality of effluent and extending drainfield life.



Effluent from the relatively clear zone of the septic tank, between the scum and sludge layers, enters the effluent filter through inlet holes in the housing. Larger particles are retained in the filter's interior space. An optional alarm can be installed to signal a high-level condition in the tank, which may indicate a need to clean the filter.



There are 2 parameters to compare before choosing a filter:

- The filter surface area. This parameter represents the size of the particle that can pass through the filter. 1/16 to 1/8 inches is a good size for a normal use.
- The total flow area. This is the maximum flow that your filter can handle. Make sure it is greater than your discharge.

If your screen is clogged, then it's working! Screens usually have to be cleaned more frequently than routine inspections occur, especially if you have a garbage disposal. You can hire someone to clean the screen, or you can clean it yourself. Simply remove the screen from the outlet end of the tank and hose it off over the inlet end. It is always wise to use rubber gloves and eye protection when cleaning the screen.

