

Little actions...

Make sure your septic system is compliant

Create a rain garden

Collect stormwater (rain barrels)

Reduce impermeable surfaces

Maintain a riparian buffer

Add vegetation to your property

...big impacts

All these actions favour water infiltration into the soil, reduce erosion, and protect watercourses.



Assistance is available

Bringing septic systems up to standard :



Contact your municipality to find out about available financial assistance.



You may be eligible for a tax credit. Check with Revenu Québec.

Septic system maintenance :



Certain municipalities take charge of measuring sludge and scum and/or pumping out tanks.

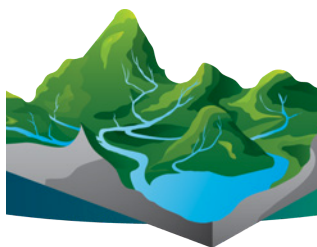
Find out more.

No matter where it is located within the watershed, your home is directly connected to Missisquoi Bay.

Every drop of water that leaves your property is affected by your actions.

By doing things right today, you have the power to improve water quality tomorrow.

The health of the bay starts on your property!



Contact us for more information

Organisme de bassin versant baie Missisquoi

110, rue de la Rivière, Bedford, JOJ 1A0

info@obvbm.org

OBV
BAIE MISSISQUOI



Version française disponible sur le site web de l'OBVBM.
Traduction : Peter Fields

This initiative is taken within the framework of the Quebec Water Strategy, which includes specific measures for the responsible, integrated, and sustainable protection, management, and use of water and aquatic environments.

Québec 

REDUCING PHOSPHORUS STARTS AT HOME

From the septic tank to the garden, adopt best practices to reduce phosphorus emissions from your property



Excess phosphorus

A major issue in the Missisquoi Bay watershed



Phosphorus contributes to the proliferation of **blue-green algae** (cyanobacteria), threatening water supplies, human health, and access to our bodies of water.

You have the power to act

Septic systems : maintenance makes the difference



An outdated or poorly maintained septic system can leak, contaminate your or your neighbour's well, or be a non-negligible source of phosphorus running into aquatic environments.

Property owners are **responsible** for the compliance and maintenance of their system and must bear the corresponding costs.

Septic systems are governed by the Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings (Q-2, r. 22). There can be penalties for non-compliance.

Acquired rights do not exist for septic systems that are unsanitary or a nuisance. Municipalities may require corrective measures.

It pays to take care of your septic system

Your responsibilities and regular maintenance



Schedule pumping and inspections

Pump out your septic system every 2 years (principal residence) or 4 years (secondary residence) and send the report to your municipality.



Do not exceed the 30-year lifespan

Replace your system if it is defective or has been used for more than three decades.



Obtain the required permits

A municipal permit is mandatory in order to build, modify, or move any component of your system.



Staying alert and protecting your system



Know the signs of a leak

Abnormally green grass, odours, or spongy soil point to a nutrient leak.



Keep the leaching bed clear

Don't plant anything or drive a vehicle on the leaching bed.



Save water to prevent saturation

Reducing your water use avoids turbulence, thereby prolonging the lifespan of your system.

Simple, user-friendly solutions

Sustainable maintenance practices



Avoid chemical fertilizers

Use compost or slow-release products with a P index lower than 3.



Keep your lawn dense

Practice herbicycling by leaving grass cuttings on the ground so as to boost nutrient cycling.



Choose phosphate-free products

For your household cleaning needs, opt for biodegradable detergents and soaps labeled "phosphate-free."

Management of water and natural environments



Promote natural infiltration

Use permeable paving stones and channel water from gutters into rain barrels or vegetation.



Protect riparian buffers

Maintain a 10-metre unmowed and unfertilized zone along watercourses.



Fight soil erosion

Keep slopes covered with vegetation and protect sediment-trapping wetlands.