

# Protect Manitoba's Water

Discover the advantages of using a holding tank to manage wastewater



Protecting  
& Managing  
*our Future*

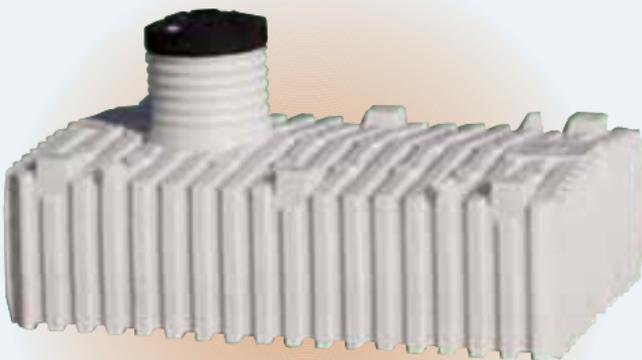
Manitoba 



**Figure 1.**  
***CSA Approved Concrete Holding Tank***



**Figure 2.**  
***CSA Approved Fibreglass Holding Tank***



**Figure 3.**  
***CSA Approved Polyethylene Holding Tank***

## Discover the Advantages

A wastewater holding tank may be the best choice for your new home, cottage or business or for replacing your existing wastewater system.

## What is a Holding Tank?

Holding tanks are large, single compartment, watertight vessels constructed of concrete, fibreglass or polyethylene built to CSA standards. They provide short-term storage of untreated wastewater. They are convenient to install and can even be installed above ground. Holding tanks must be periodically pumped out by a registered wastewater hauler.

## Protecting the Environment

Our province has an abundance of lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. Proper treatment and disposal of wastewater is one way to help protect this precious natural resource. Used correctly, pump-out systems like holding tanks provide the highest level of environmental protection.

Holding tanks are an ideal alternative to septic fields because they prevent wastewater from draining into the soil. This is especially true for smaller lots and in areas with thin or shallow soil, sand, bedrock, clay, or sloping land. Check with your regional Environment Officer, municipality or Provincial Park to determine if a holding tank is mandatory in your area.

# Conserving Manitoba Water

Holding tanks used along with low flush toilets, front loading washing machines and spring loaded taps conserve water and quickly pay for themselves. Low-use water fixtures will decrease the volume of wastewater entering the holding tank, reduce haulage costs and prolong the life of your holding tank. To reduce the contribution of nutrients to our lakes, rivers and streams that lead to harmful algae blooms, homeowners and cottagers are encouraged to select phosphorus-free detergents and cleaning products.

## Registering and Installing

- Holding tanks must be registered with your local Manitoba Conservation office prior to installation.
- Failure to register is subject to prosecution and penalty under *The Environment Act*.
- Holding tanks must be installed at least one metre from any building, three metres from any property boundary, swimming pool or water holding tank, eight metres from any well or embankment and 15 metres from any watercourse.
- Holding tanks must be located where they can be readily accessed by a wastewater pump-out truck.
- Tanks must be securely covered to protect children.
- A registered hauler must service the area and disposal facilities must be available.

## Storage Capacity

The minimum total capacity for holding tanks in Manitoba is 4,500 litres. Since the expected volume of wastewater is 150 litres per person per day, an average family of four would require a minimum holding capacity of 4,200 litres per week. (See table 1.) To prevent tank overflow, holding tanks can be equipped with a visual and audible alarm, which activates when the tank is 75 per cent full.

**Table 1.**  
***Storage Capacity of  
Different Size Holding Tanks***

	Days of Storage			
Size of Holding Tank	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
4,500 litres	30	15	10	7.5
9,000 litres	60	30	20	15
13,500 litres	90	45	30	22.5

## Contact Information

A list of certified installers and haulers, suppliers and additional information can be found on the Manitoba Conservation website  
[www.manitoba.ca/conservation/  
envprograms/wastewater](http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater)



## **For more information**

To learn more about  
installing a holding tank  
wastewater system, please  
contact Manitoba  
Conservation at:  
204-945-2970,  
Toll Free 1-800-282-8069  
or visit:  
[www.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca)