

Septic Tanks

Septic dye tests of **septic** systems are usually not useful in determining **septic** system functionality. It usually requires hundreds of gallons of water to get the dye out to the leech field and up to the surface of the ground.

There is no standard or protocol for **septic** dye tests. State licensed **septic** companies will only certify a **septic** system by removing the lid and pumping and examining the tank and pipe connections. (By doing anything less, how much liability would a home inspector be assuming by giving assurances about the functionality of a **septic** system?)

For the reasons listed above, I do not perform **septic** dye tests. I can, however, arrange to have a licensed **septic** company on site the same time I am there. They will provide a written certification about the condition of the **septic** system after removing the lid and pumping the system. Normally, the fee runs around \$150 - \$200.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Helpful links regarding Septic tanks:

<http://www.inspect-ny.com/septbook.htm>

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/homeowners.cfm>

