



Cesspool vs Septic in Rhode Island

Older-home buyer explainer

Older-home buyers · Realtors · Inspectors

Why buyers should care

- A cesspool and modern septic system are not the same.
- Older systems may have incomplete records.
- Repairs or replacement can be expensive and regulated.
- Inspection scope matters.

Questions to ask

- Is it septic, cesspool, sewer, or unknown?
- When was it installed or last updated?
- Are there permits, as-builts, or inspection reports?
- Has the system failed or required repair?