



POLLUTION FROM SEPTIC TANKS

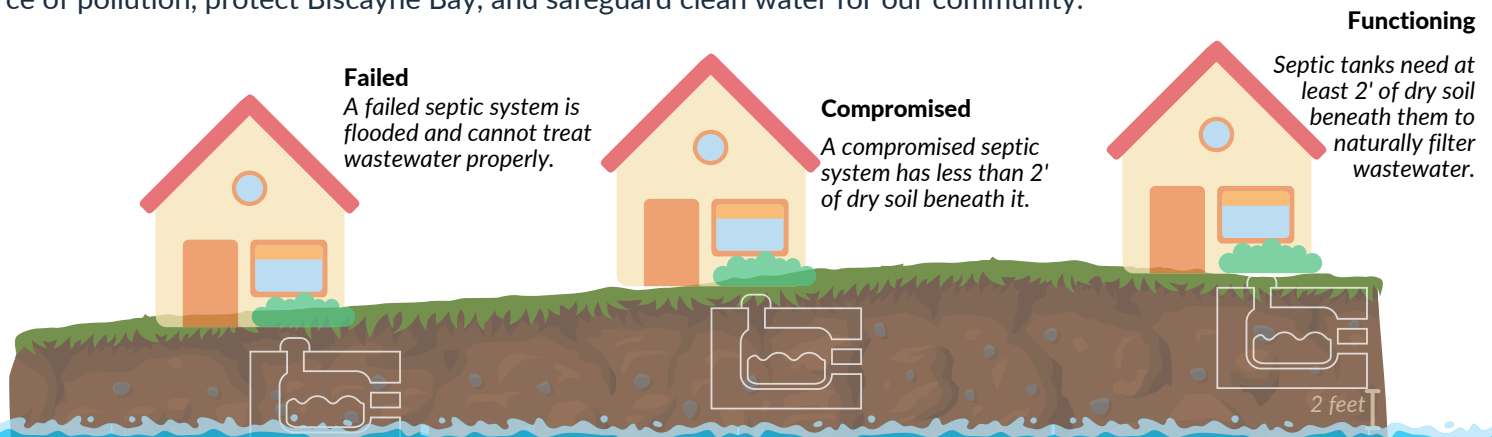
As sea levels rise, Miami's underground water tables are rising too—creating a serious risk for the 120,000+ households and businesses still relying on septic systems. These tanks, once a convenient solution, are now a major source of pollution, threatening clean drinking water, Biscayne Bay, and public health.

Septic tanks work by letting bacteria break down waste in dry soil—but South Florida's porous limestone and shallow groundwater make this system risky. Even when functioning as intended, septic tanks are essentially flushing waste into our water table and out to Biscayne Bay.

Today, over half of Miami-Dade's septic tanks are partially inundated by groundwater or lack the required two feet of soil beneath them. By 2040, with 10+ inches of sea-level rise expected, these risks will only grow. Converting all septic tanks to sewer connections could cost \$4 billion, but the cost of inaction—polluted water, lost wildlife, and public health crises—will be far higher.

Over the next year, we will continue pushing for septic-to-sewer conversion, supporting infrastructure investments, and working with local communities to raise awareness about the risks of failing systems. Our goal is to reduce a major source of pollution, protect Biscayne Bay, and safeguard clean water for our community.

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