

"Septic tanks and cesspools are the largest of all contributors of wastewater to the ground and are the most frequently reported sources of groundwater contamination in the United States" - Groundwater (p. 439), R. Allan Freeze and John A. Cherry (Univ of British Columbia, Univ. of Waterloo). This is perhaps the most widely used groundwater textbook ever.

"Septic tanks are most likely to contribute to ground-water contamination in areas where (1) there is a high density of homes with septic tanks, (2) the soil layer over permeable bedrock is thin, (3) the soil is extremely permeable, ...", "septic tank effluent contains bacteria and viruses." - Applied Hydrogeology (p. 416). C.W. Fetter (U. of Wisc.). This is currently one of the most widely used groundwater textbooks.

"The major threats to groundwater quality from all contaminant sources are (1) septic tank systems, (2) sanitary landfills, (3) chemical landfills, and (4) wastewater disposal ponds." - Groundwater and Wells - 2nd Ed. (p. 705), Driscoll (Johnson Screen Division). This has been referred to as "the bible" of the groundwater industry.

"Septic tank systems also represent a significant fraction of the nitrogen load to groundwater in the U.S." - Nitrates in Groundwater (p. 6), Larry Canter (U. of Oklahoma).