

Septic Tank Survey Report (August 27th, 2021)

As of Friday the 27th of August, 373 homes in the Stanhope Peninsula have been visited regarding the septic tank survey. Of the 373 homes visited, 107 have been surveyed. The remaining 266 were not surveyed as the owners were not found at the home. This number may have been a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions as many of the homes in the Stanhope Peninsula are owned by individuals who reside outside of PEI or Atlantic Canada and were therefore unable to visit their summer cottages this year. If the decision is made to re-do the survey in the coming years, the number of homeowners reached by the survey is likely to increase.

The residents who were surveyed answered a series of questions regarding their septic systems and water quality. At the end of the survey, each homeowner was offered a water conservation pamphlet. The following report will outline the response of the homeowners regarding each separate question.

Note: Several homeowners requested that they not be further questioned or contacted regarding their specific answers to this series of questions, and that their results only be kept public in the general survey report.

Results shown in the following page.

Question 1: What type of septic tank do you have?

Fifty-two (52) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

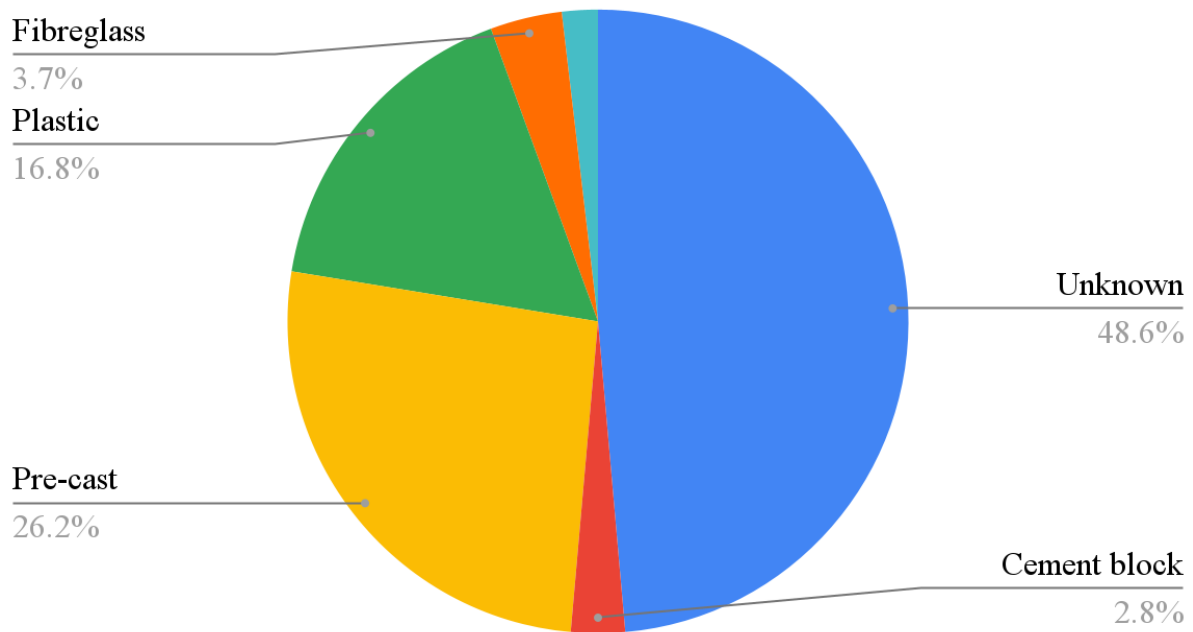
Twenty-eight (28) answered pre-cast

Eighteen (18) answered plastic

Four (4) answered fibreglass

Two (2) answered metal

Three (3) answered cement block



Question 2: How old is it?

Six (6) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

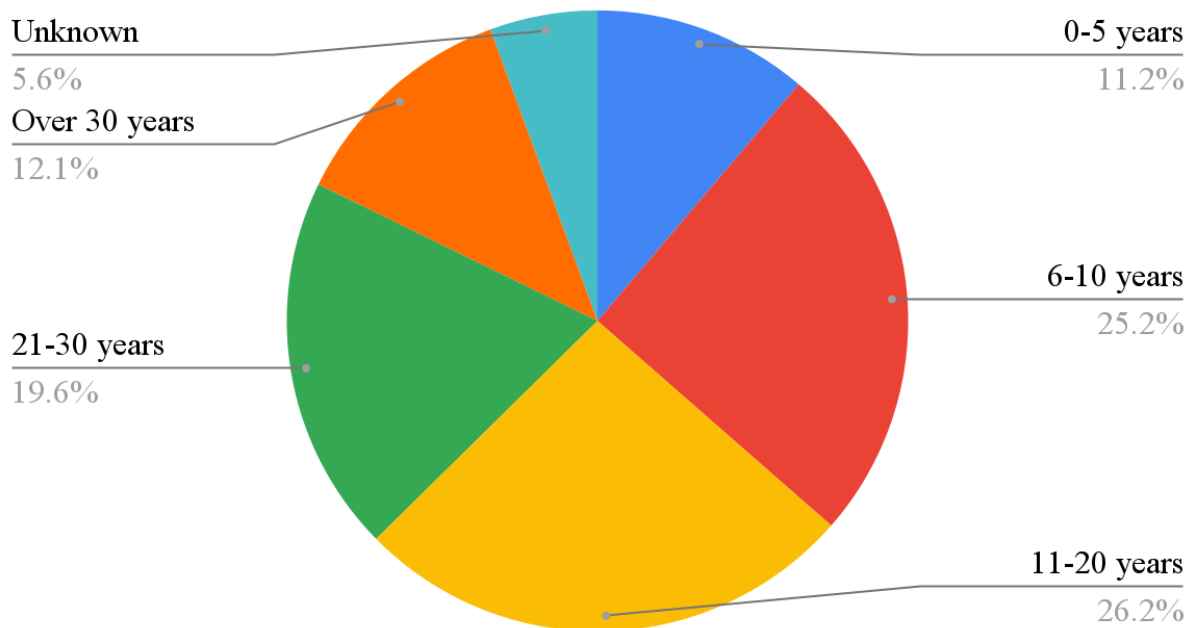
Twelve (12) answered 0-5 years

Twenty-seven (27) answered 6-10 years

Twenty-eight (28) answered 11-20 years

Twenty-one (21) answered 21-30 years

Thirteen (13) answered over 31 years



Note: The majority of the homeowners who did not know the age of their septic tank were not the original owners of the home.

Question 3: How often do you have your septic system pumped? (Rephrased to “how often do you plan on having your septic system pumped?” when the septic was found to be new or the house was recently purchased.)

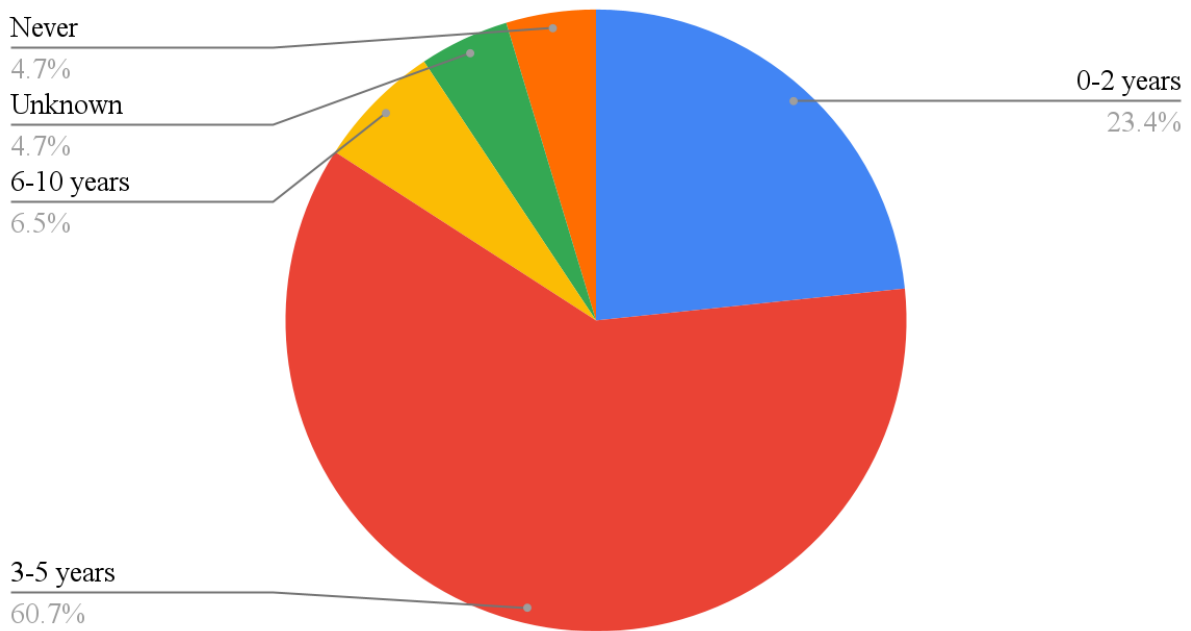
Five (5) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

Twenty-one (21) answered every 0-2 years

Sixty-five (65) answered every 3-5 years

Seven (7) answered every 6-10 years

Five (5) answered never



Question 4: How often do you have your septic system inspected? (Rephrased to “how often do you plan on having your septic system inspected?” when the septic was found to be new or the house was recently purchased.)

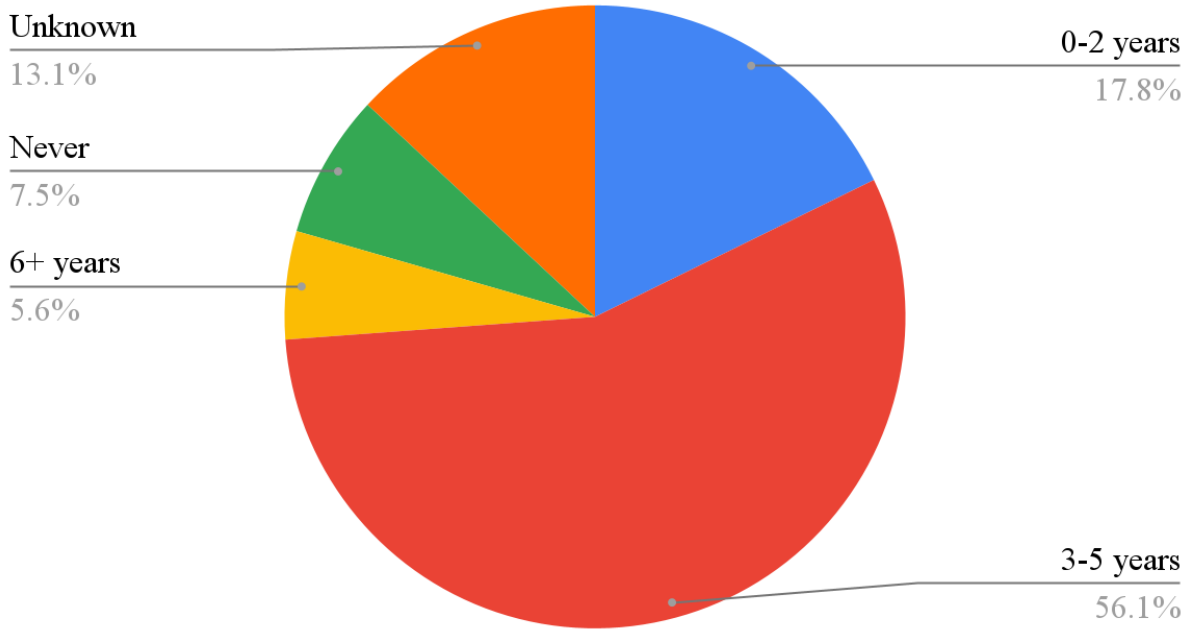
Fourteen (14) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

Nineteen (19) answered every 0-2 years

Sixty (60) answered every 3-5 years

Six (6) answered every 6-10 years

Eight (8) answered never



Note: Many homeowners were unsure whether this question indicated an official inspection or an unofficial inspection that came along with the pumping. Though some of these homeowners promptly responded with the same years they last had their septic tank pumped, others instead decided to respond with unknown.

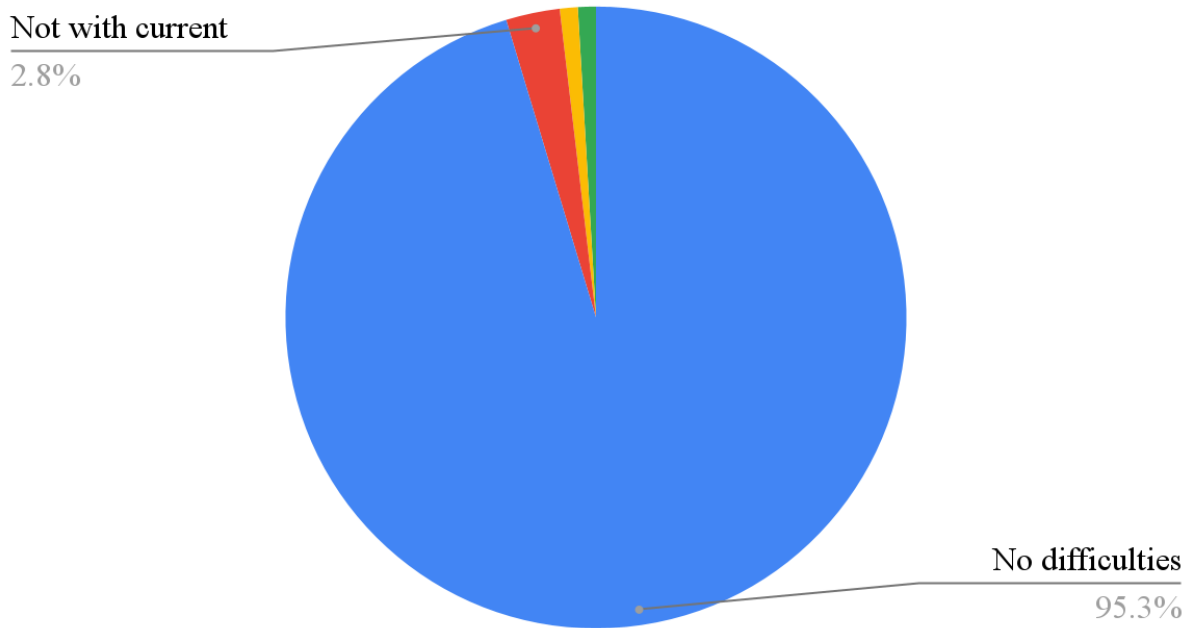
Question 5: Have you experienced any difficulties with your septic system?

One (1) homeowner did not know the answer to this question

One hundred and two (102) have not experienced any difficulties

Three (3) have not experienced any difficulties with their current septic system

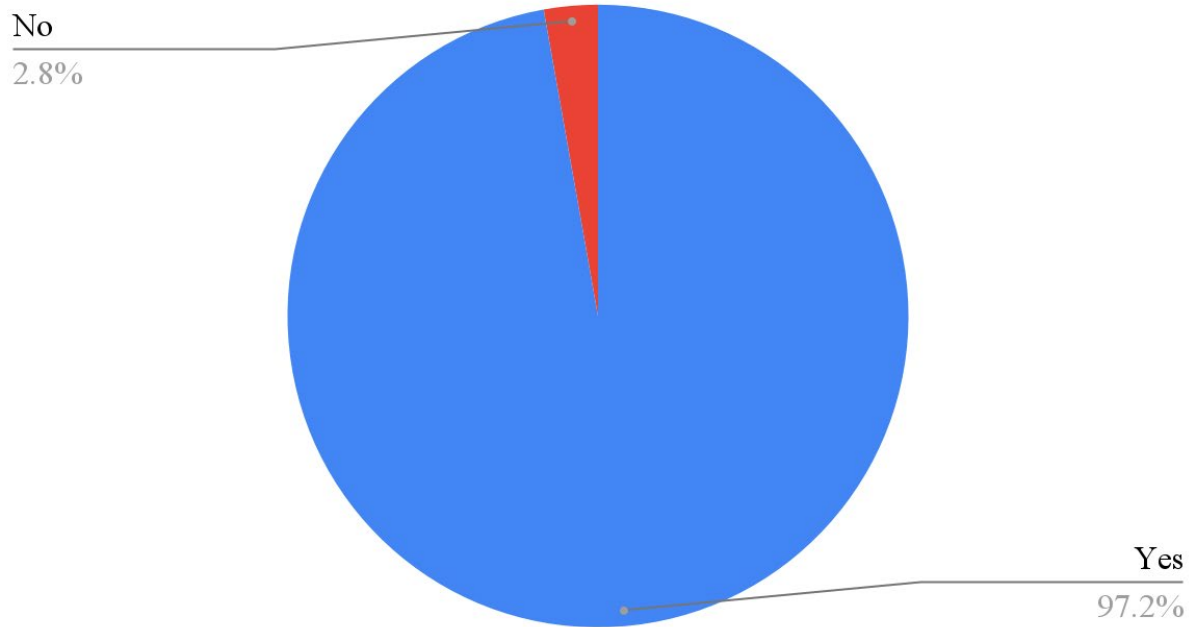
One (1) is currently experiencing difficulties with their septic system



Question 6: Do you know where your tile bed/septic system is located?

One hundred and four (104) homeowners answered yes

Three (3) homeowners answered no



Note: Homeowners who answered no were explained the importance of knowing the location of their septic system.

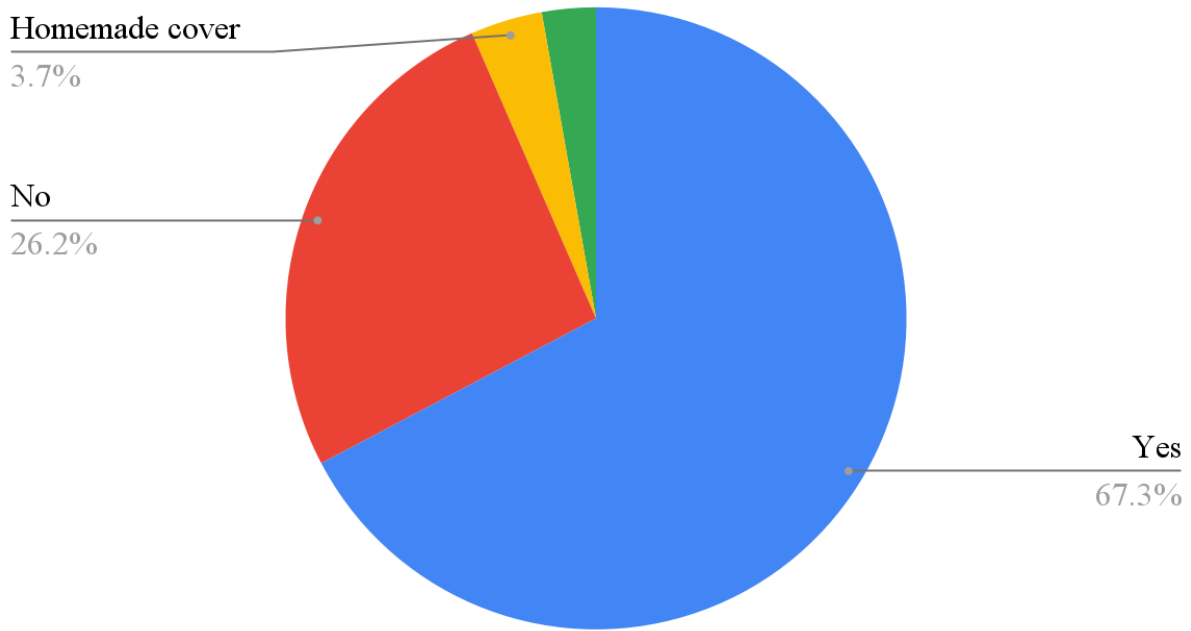
Question 7: Do you have a riser on your septic tank?

Three (3) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

Seventy-two (72) answered yes

Twenty-eight (28) answered no

Four (4) have homemade covers/identifiers



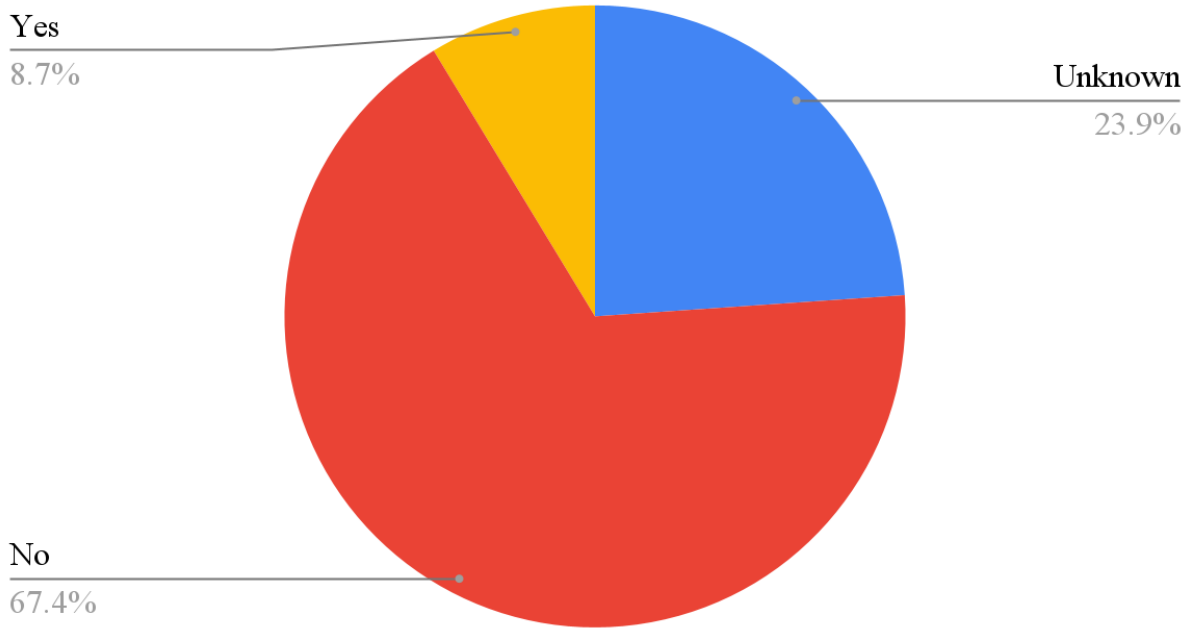
Note: Homeowners who did not have a riser were told some of the benefits that came with getting one installed.

Question 8: Do you have a filter on your septic tank? If yes, how often do you clean it?

Twenty-two (22) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

Seventy-six (76) answered no

Eight (8) answered yes



Note: Though the majority of homeowners responded no to this question, a large portion of them were not aware that there was a possibility that their septic system could have a filter.

Homeowners that were aware their septic system indeed had a filter responded that they clean it around every six months to a year.

Question 9: Do you check water quality every year? If so, would you mind allowing the province to share the results with us?

One (1) homeowner did not know the answer to this question

Fifty-three (53) answered once a year

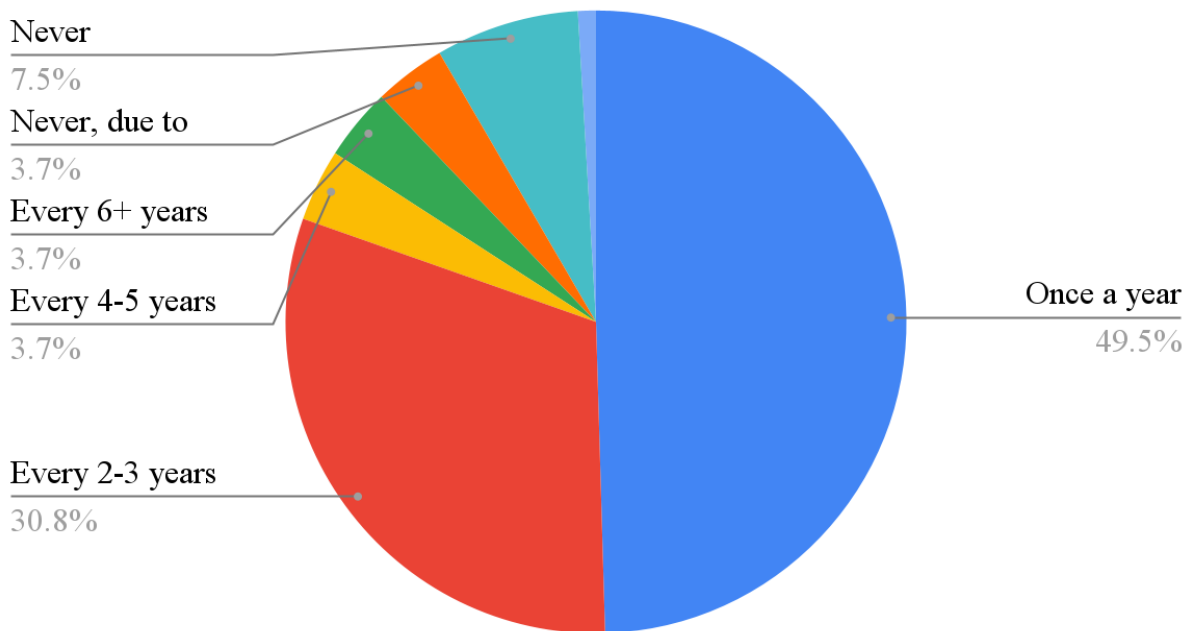
Thirty-three (33) answered every 2-3 years

Four (4) answered every 4-5 years

Four (4) answered every 6+ years

Four (4) answered never, due to their filtering system

Eight (8) answered never



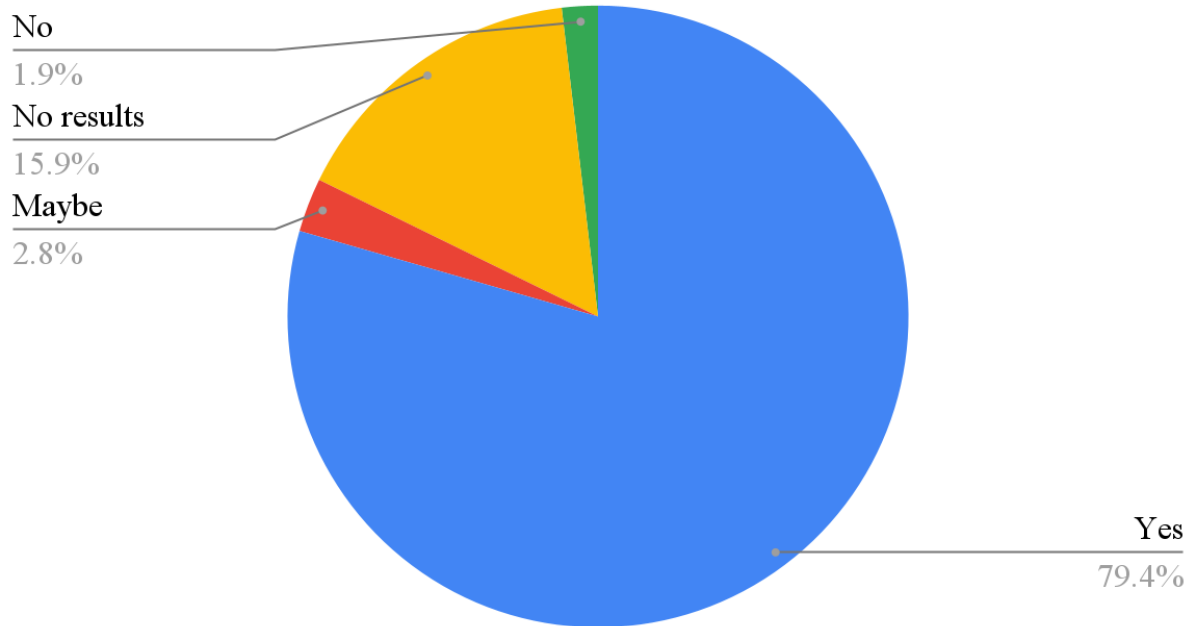
Note: Homeowners who did not check their water quality once a year were encouraged to do so.

Eighty-five (85) homeowners were willing to share these results

Seventeen (17) had no results to share

Three (3) said they might share these results

Two (2) were not willing to share these results



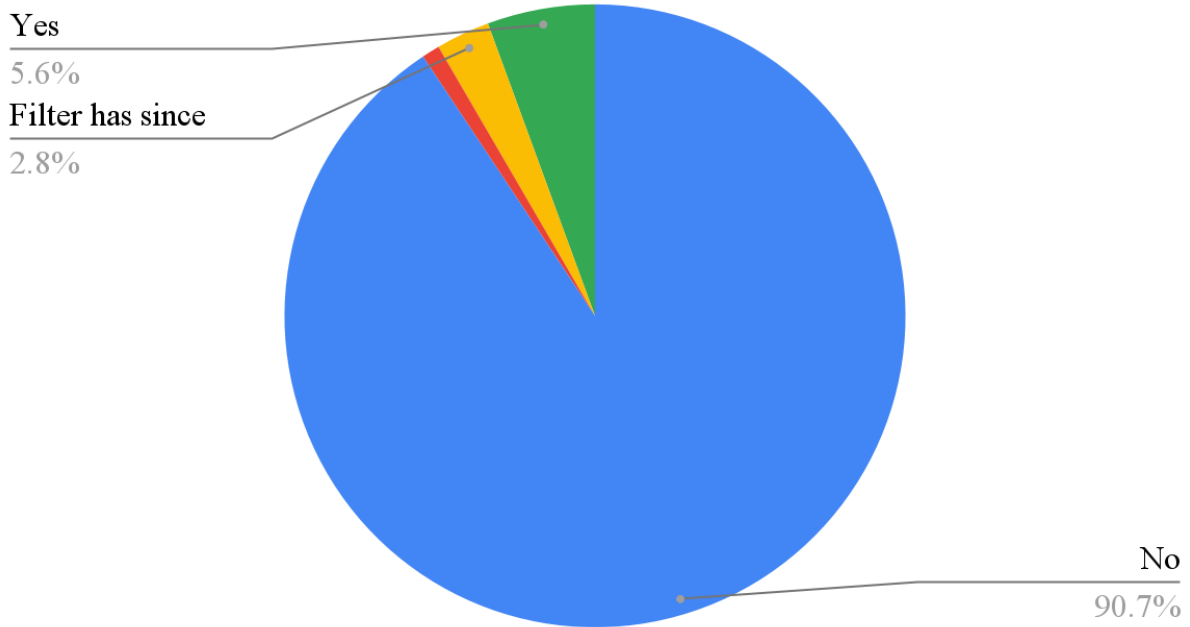
Question 10: Have you experienced any problems with your water quality, and if yes, how was it resolved?

Ninety-seven (97) homeowners have not experienced any problems

Six (6) are currently experiencing problems

Three (3) have not experienced problems since placing a filter

One (1) had their well replaced

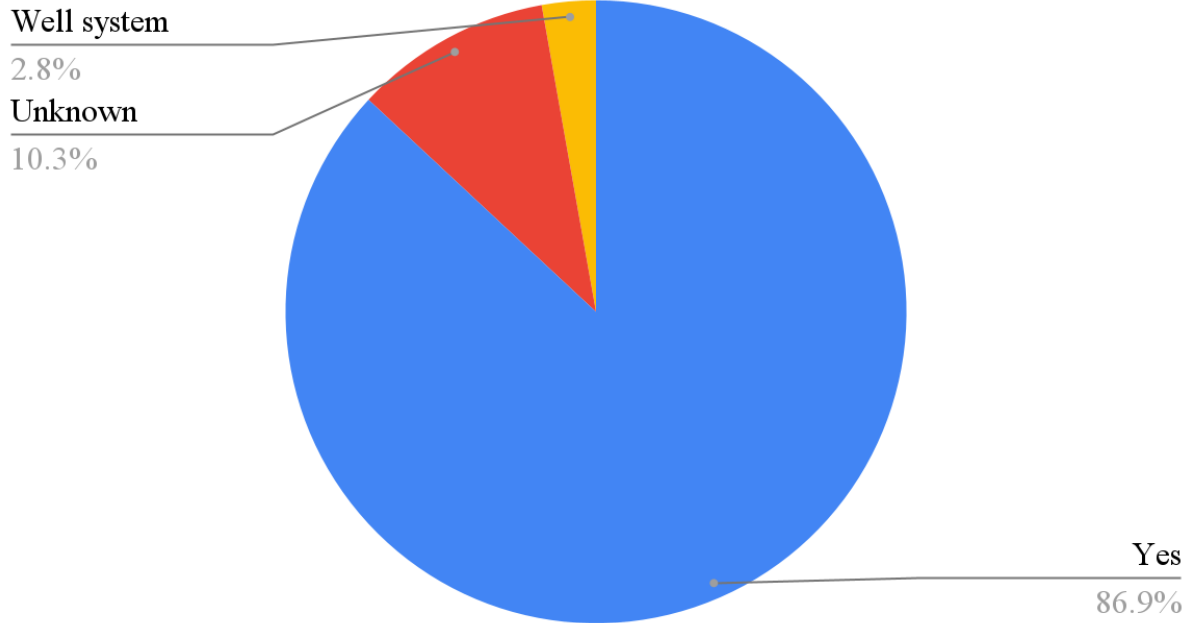


Question 11: Is your well cap tightly fitted?

Eleven (11) homeowners did not know the answer to this question

Ninety-three (93) answered yes

Three (3) are part of a well system



Note: Though the response according to the chart may seem to be an overwhelming yes, many homeowners only assumed their well cap was tight, rather than actually checking it. Responses such as “I assume so,” “I believe so,” or a hesitant yes were all placed in the yes category. These homeowners, along with ones who responded with unsure were encouraged to check that their well cap was actually tight.