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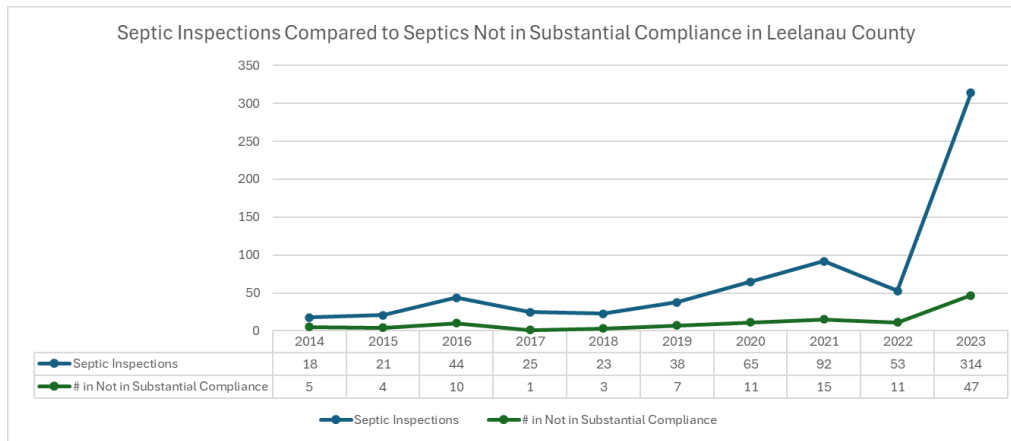
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**Understanding the Benefits of Septic Inspections**  
Addressing Failing Systems and Increasing Success Rates

In a concerted effort to protect our pristine waterways and address the rising concerns over septic system failures, Leelanau County authorities have implemented a comprehensive Time of Sale/Transfer inspection program also known as Point-of-Sale Inspection. The primary purpose of these inspections is to ensure the proper functioning of residential and commercial septic systems, thereby mitigating the risk of contamination and safeguarding the region's water quality.

Septic system failures are not uncommon, and their consequences can be detrimental to the environment, posing a serious threat to our water resources. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the Time of Sale/Transfer Inspections have been instituted as a proactive measure to identify and rectify potential problems before they escalate.

In 2023, a new Benzie and Leelanau District Sanitary Code that included the Time of Sale/Transfer inspection program was enacted. Leelanau County's annual "Not in Substantial Compliance" percentage for 2014-2023 was 16.45%, compared to Benzie County's 4.20%. Benzie County has had the Time of Sale/Transfer inspection program since 1992.



The inspections evaluate the condition of septic systems prior to property transfers, emphasizing the need for responsible ownership and maintenance. This initiative aims to reduce the instances of septic failures that can contribute to water pollution and contamination, ultimately preserving the ecological balance of our water bodies.

**Protecting Our Waterways – A Vital Mission**

Failing, near failing, and substandard septic systems are often linked to pollution and can have far-reaching consequences on the health of our rivers, lakes, and groundwater. By enforcing Time of Sale/Transfer Inspections, Leelanau County is taking a decisive step towards preventing waterborne diseases, safeguarding aquatic ecosystems, and maintaining the overall well-being of the community.

"The Time of Sale/Transfer Inspection program is a crucial initiative to protect our community's health and the environment," says Dan Thorell, Health Officer for Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. "By ensuring the proper functioning of septic systems, we are actively working towards preserving the water quality that is essential for the well-being of all residents."

Residents and property owners are encouraged to cooperate with the Time of Sale/Transfer Inspection process to contribute to the collective effort in preserving the natural beauty and sustainability of Leelanau County.

For more information on Time of Sale/Transfer Inspections, visit <https://bldhd.org/sewagewell-evaluation-form/>.

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