

## What can I win?

The most valuable prize for everyone...  
a cleaner Chesapeake Bay!  
By pumping or upgrading your septic tank,  
you also qualify to win:

### 1st Place Prize:

Reimbursement of up to \$350 for the tank pump-out or upgrade.

### Other Prizes:

Gift Certificates from local establishments and free passes to County recreational facilities.

For more information on septic systems please visit:

<https://www.co.cal.md.us/2601/Environmental-FAQs>

## 2019 Sponsors

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## 15th Annual Septic System Pump-Out Contest

Pump out your septic tank  
or upgrade your septic  
tank and qualify to win  
great prizes!



**The Calvert County  
Environmental Commission  
needs your help  
to clean up and protect the  
Chesapeake Bay!**

**Why “Pump for the Bay?”**

Too much of the nutrient nitrogen is polluting the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River and Solomons Harbor. This nitrogen increases the growth of algae. Algae clouds the water and prevents sunlight from reaching the rooted aquatic plants necessary for a healthy Bay. When algae die, the decomposition process uses up oxygen that fish, crabs, and other marine life need to live. Together, these factors create poor water quality and low oxygen “dead zones”.

We all use the water in Calvert County—we swim, sail, fish, catch crabs, use motorboats, and more. It’s important to keep our water clean because a healthy Bay means a healthy Calvert County!

**What does this have to do with my septic tank?**

Septic systems contribute up to 25% of the excess nitrogen in Solomons Harbor. Even when operating properly, conventional septic tanks remove only about 10% of the nitrogen in the effluent that flows from the tank into the drain field. The rest can get into the groundwater and eventually enter the Bay. You can help reduce this nitrogen pollution by pumping your septic tank every 2 to 3 years or upgrading to a more efficient system that converts 50-75% of the nitrogen in the effluent to a gas and then vents it harmlessly to the atmosphere.

**What’s in it for me to pump or upgrade?**

You will be helping clean up the waters of Calvert County.

There will be better habitat for fish and crabs.

You could win money to offset the cost of pumping/upgrading your septic tank.

You could win prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses that care about the Bay.

By pumping your septic tank more frequently, you might avoid the high cost of repairing a failed septic system.

**Who’s eligible to win?**

Any resident of Calvert County who pumps or upgrades their septic tank between the dates of January 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020.

**When’s the drawing?**

The drawing will be held at the January 2021 Environmental Commission meeting. Winners will be notified by letter.

To find out more about the Calvert County Environmental Commission, go to <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/550/Environmental>

**How do I enter?**

Upgrade to a nitrogen-removing tank with a Bay Restoration Fund Grant (call 410-535-3922 for more information) or hire a company to pump out your septic tank.

**Send a copy of your paid bill/receipt along with the entry form below to:**

**“Pump for the Bay” Contest  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678**

**\*\*Entries must be received by the Dept. of Planning & Zoning no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**For additional information visit the County website:  
[calvertcountymd.gov](http://calvertcountymd.gov)**

**Entry Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

By initialing here I consent to the release of my name should I win. Initial here \_\_\_\_\_