

Maintaining your Septic System

Avoid putting fats and oils down the drain to prevent your system from clogging-up.

Avoid putting bleach and large amounts of disinfectants and cleaning products down the drain to maintain the systems bacteria health.

Avoid compacting the soil with heavy equipment to maintain good system flow.

Install water-saving devices to reduce the pressure on your septic system.

Minimise wastewater surges going to your septic system by spreading-out laundry washing during the week, rather than all on one day.



Treated effluent irrigation systems need to be maintained regularly

Further information can be found by visiting Council's website at: wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Protect our Community and Environment

Routine maintenance of your septic system helps to avoid costly repairs. Contact your plumber or service agent if you notice any issues



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Caring for your Septic Tank system



'Septic-Care' Wollondilly

There are different types of On-Site Sewage Management Systems, you will have one of these if your home is not connected to the town sewerage system.

Septic systems treat and dispose of household wastewater in your backyard, including black-water (toilet) and greywater (bathroom, laundry & kitchen).

WARNING
RECLAIMED
EFFLUENT
DO NOT DRINK
AVOID CONTACT

Each property owner has a responsibility to keep their septic system in good working order. Regular maintenance and monitoring of the septic system is needed. Conserving water-use, and being careful what is put down your drains, will all help with the operation of the system.

This is important to minimise potential impacts on the local water catchment and the health of the community.



Managing a Septic Tank/Absorption Trench

Conventional Septic Tank systems provide primary treatment of wastewater, by separating-out solids prior to the disposal of the treated liquid effluent to an absorption trench. The liquid from a septic tank still contains many pathogens and potential viruses, and therefore must be disposed of below-ground to an absorption trench or bed.

The Absorption Trench provides for disposal of septic tank effluent underground, thereby preventing odour and contact with humans, pets and livestock.

Suggested maintenance to minimise health & environmental hazards:

- ◇ Tank to be pumped-out every 3-5 years by a licensed contractor.
- ◇ Trench area mowed and weeded.
- ◇ Do not place structures or drive your vehicle over the absorption trench area.
- ◇ Exclude livestock from the trench area.
- ◇ Do not use a diversion hose to direct untreated laundry greywater onto your garden/lawn.
- ◇ Grease-traps should be cleaned out at least once a year by a licensed contractor.

Signs of failure

- ⇒ Overflow from the tank or from any leaking/broken pipes.
- ⇒ Wet boggy areas or foul odours on trench area.
- ⇒ 'Backing-up' in the house drains.

A licensed plumber should be contacted as soon as you notice a problem.



Managing an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System

Aerated Wastewater Treatment System's (AWTS) provide a higher quality of treatment than a standard septic tank. They provide additional treatment including aeration and disinfection. The secondary treated effluent from the tank is typically irrigated onto your garden or lawn with sprinklers.

The irrigation area that forms part of this type of system is required to comply with any approved Council conditions of consent. Maintaining the AWTS with an adequate number of sprinklers will help to prevent ponding of treated effluent. Growing edible food crops is not permitted on your treated effluent irrigation area.

Maintenance to minimise health & environmental hazards:

- ◇ Routine service every 3 months by an appropriately qualified service contractor that includes monitoring and maintenance of the treated effluent sprinkler irrigation area.
- ◇ Do not locate sprinklers in close proximity to property boundaries, avoid any potential spray or spray-drift from leaving your property. Buffer setbacks need to be complied with.
- ◇ The irrigation area needs to be adequately landscaped and not used for recreation.
- ◇ The power supply and irrigation pipe-line need to remain connected to the AWTS tank at all times.
- ◇ Be careful not to damage your irrigation pipe-line while lawn-mowing.
- ◇ Only use approved AWTS hoses and fittings for the irrigation pipe-line.
- ◇ Signs should be installed on the edge of the irrigation area (e.g. 'Reclaimed effluent, Do not drink, Avoid contact').

Signs of failure

- ⇒ A triggered alarm or warning light associated with the AWTS.
- ⇒ Smelly or over-saturated areas.
- ⇒ Leaking or broken irrigation pipes, or blocked sprinklers.

Your service agent or licensed plumber should be contacted as soon as you notice a problem