



Septic Safe

Fact Sheet 1



What is an On-Site Sewage Management System?

If you own or rent a house that is not connected to Council's sewage system, you will have some type of on-site sewage management system (septic system) on the property.

Different types of systems

Typically the systems listed below provide storage, treatment and disposal of household wastewater in a way that the likelihood of adverse impacts to public and environment health are minimised.

These systems are all classified as on-site sewage management systems (OSMS) and require approval to install, owners require an approval to operate. Council will carry out operational inspections on these systems:

- Septic Tank
- Aerated Wastewater Treatment System
- Holding tank with pump out
- Wet composting toilet
- Recirculating sand filter system
- Grey water treatment system
- Waterless composting system

On-site sewage management includes any activity carried out for the purpose of holding or processing or reusing or otherwise disposing of sewage or by-products of sewage

The Australian/New Zealand Standard 1547 On-Site Domestic Wastewater Management and Department of Local Government's Environmental and Health Protection Guidelines: On-site Sewage Management for Single Households provide general advice/ guidelines on householder's responsibilities for managing an on-site sewage management system.

On-site sewage management is the management of untreated wastewater generated within a household and the application of the treated effluent to the land completely within the boundary of the premises. Wastewater includes all wastewater arising from household activities, including wastewater from kitchens, bathrooms and laundries. Accordingly, where the Council centralised sewer- age system is not available to a premises, an on-site sewage management is required.

General Notes

The type of system proposed for a particular site requires careful consideration by an experienced wastewater consultant and/or licensed plumber and drainer. All systems have limitations dependent on a wide range of factors inclusive of how they are used, operated and maintained. Time spent on making the right selection will pay dividends in the future.



Further Information

Environment and Health

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