



Septic Safe

Fact Sheet 7



Septic Tank Decommissioning Procedure & Pump Out Contractors

When a new septic system is installed existing or premises are connected to the sewer, all redundant septic tank(s) are to be decommissioned using the procedure detailed below. This is to ensure that the redundant tank(s) do not cause any future public or environmental health impacts

Procedure

- All effluent and sludge is to be removed from the redundant septic tank(s) by an approved contractor. A copy of the pump out receipt must be forwarded to council.
- The pumps, blowers and internal components of an AWTS may be either collapsed into the AWTS or selectively removed by the owner/occupier, an AWTS manufacturer or service agent for proper disposal to landfill. The owner/occupier, manufacturer or service agent must remove such parts in a manner which will not contaminate the environment or compromise the health and safety of themselves or others. Un-retrieved components must be left in the AWTS.
- After pumpout/cleanout of tank the , tank(s) are to be treated with Ag lime or hydrated lime to disinfect and neutralise the tanks. Care should be taken when using lime. It is recommended that appropriate precautionary steps be taken such as using personal protective equipment (skin protection, eye protection and respiratory protection). A copy of the MSDS for lime should be on hand. Only properly qualified persons should be employed to perform any procedures using chemicals.



- After treatment with lime, a hole or holes adequate for drainage are to be punctured in the bottom of the tank(s).
- The concrete lids and portion of the tank walls are to be broken up to below ground level.
- The tank(s) are to be filled with solid, non-putrescible fill; with the ground surface made good. If settling of the fill material occurs over time it may be necessary to make good the ground surface with further fill.

Further Information

Environment and Health Services Team

E2017/5411 Jan 2017#

