

On-site sewerage facility

Homes with on-site sewerage come with obligations for the owner or tenant to ensure environmental compliance and neighbourhood harmony.

Here are some simple tips on what to do and what not to do if you have an on-site sewerage facility. For a detailed list of the do's and do not's for your particular system, check your owner's manual.

Do

- Carry out regular maintenance of your system using an approved servicing agent. It is an offence if your system is not maintained regularly by an approved service agent.
- Use only biodegradable products recommended for on-site systems.
- Avoid contact with the effluent and irrigation sprays.
- Call your service agent when you are encountering problems with your system such as alarms and/or smells from the on-site sewerage facility.
- Conserve water and avoid overloading the system. Fix leaking taps and running toilets as soon as they are discovered.
- Use toilet paper that disintegrates easily.
- Use bicarb soda as a cleaner for toilets, baths and basins.
- Keep a detailed record about your treatment plant, including model number, service agent, records of service visits, maintenance performed and part replacements. The Australian Standards require that this information is available at the property where the facility is located.
- Become familiar with how your own particular system operates and the way it looks, sounds and smells when it is working correctly. This way, you may be able to identify problems before they become serious and alert your service agent to anything unusual.
- Ensure your on-site sewerage facility tank lids are properly sealed to prevent entry of mosquitoes and other vermin.

Do not

- Put food scraps, milk or oil down the sink.
- Dispose of any product containing ammonia, acids, disinfectants or bleaches into the system as it will kill the bacteria which operate the system.
- Allow roof or surface water to enter the system as it will overload the system.
- Allow foreign objects such as plastic or rubber products, cloth, rags, nappy wipes, sanitary napkins, bones, metal, glass and tea leaves or coffee grounds to enter the system as it may cause blockages.
- Switch off the system to save power.
- Cover tanks with earth, concrete, pavers, pine bark, mulch or other materials which could interfere with access for maintenance or enter the tank when lids are opened.
- Allow anyone to park on, or drive over any part of the system.
- Make or allow unauthorised repairs or alterations to your system without approval from Council.
- Use garbage grinders unless the on-site sewerage facility is designed to cope with this waste.
- Put any chemicals (such as paints, thinners, pesticides etc) into the sink as these items can destroy the bacterial digestion process in your system, resulting in the discharge of polluted effluent.

What is an on-site sewerage facility?

Homes not connected to Council's sewer network require an on-site sewerage facility, which are wastewater treatment systems for domestic sewage. The facilities treat and dispose of wastewater from the laundry, kitchen and bathrooms including sinks, showers, baths and toilets.

