



Your New Septic System

Your septic tank system will require your assistance to ensure it continues to operate in a safe and environmentally friendly manner that does not create a public health and/or environmental hazard.

Helpful Hints

- Desludge the tank at least once every three years.
- Don't install a spa or swimming pool if your system is not designed for it.
- Restrict the use of germicides (such as disinfectants & bleaches) as they will kill the micro organisms that break down the solids and domestic wastes that are discharged into your septic system.
- Use only detergents that have low levels of salts, phosphorus and chlorine.
- Do not use your system as a rubbish tip (disposable nappies, cotton buds, sanitary napkins and/or condoms should not be flushed down the toilet).
- Minimise the amount of oil and fat that is flushed into your septic system.
- Use a sink strainer to restrict food scraps from being flushed into your septic system.
- Odours may occur after installation, following a pump out or following the accidental addition of a germicide. If this happens, flush a cup of lime down the toilet until the odour abates. If these odours have not abated in seven days, contact your plumber.
- Ensure no structures, pavements, driveways, patios etc are built over the septic system and/or effluent disposal area.

Warning Signs

Domestic wastewater contains sufficient biological material to start and continue the treatment process. Anaerobic bacteria digest the solids that are flushed into the tank. Over time these solids build up in the tank and can be discharged from the tank into the effluent lines which alternately either totally blocks the effluent lines or dramatically reduces their effectiveness. The warning signs are as follows:

- Toilets and sinks drain very slowly.
- Blocked fixtures with sewerage flowing from the overflow relief gully.
- Wastewater surfacing near effluent lines.
- Presence of dead and dying vegetation or lush green growth downslope of the effluent lines.
- Inspection pits and/or effluent lines consistently exhibiting high water levels.
- General water logging around the effluent lines and disposal area.
- A pungent odour near the tank and or effluent lines.
- Scum or sludge blocking the outlet from the tank.