Environmental Health - FACT SHEET

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

How do I maintain my Onsite Wastewater Management System (Septic Tank)?

Your Onsite Wastewater Management System (Septic Tank) works by using natural biological processes to breakdown waste. Regardless of the type of system, they require ongoing maintenance and care to ensure that they function efficiently and safely.

This includes:

- Regularly inspecting the areas around your tank and the absorption field where treated waste is discharged
- Maintaining the system, ensuring that it is checked regularly and de-sludged, or serviced as required (your system permit conditions may require you to supply proof of maintenance to Council)
- Having the system fixed quickly by a licensed contractor if it is not working properly
- Maintaining and protecting the absorption field and lines and ensuring that all treated wastewater remains within the boundaries of your property
- Complying with Local Council requirements in relation to installation, alterations, maintenance, and use.

Looking after your system also includes minimising the amount of wastewater your household generates, selecting household products that are safe for septic systems, and being careful about what gets flushed down your drains and into the system.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has worked with the City of Casey to develop an easy-to-follow video that explains how these systems work, and all of the things that you can do to ensure that your system continues to work at its best.

If you need more help or advice on the best way to maintain your specific type of system, ask your plumber, system service provider, or contact Mitchell Shire Council's Environmental Health Team by email enviro.health@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au or call us on 03 5734 6200.