



Management of Your Septic Tank & Disposal Area

Good Management of Your Septic Tank and Disposal Area

The effective operation of the septic tank and disposal area will, in part, depend on how it is operated and maintained. A small amount of maintenance work performed regularly can prevent your system from failing. The following is a guide on how to achieve the most from your system.

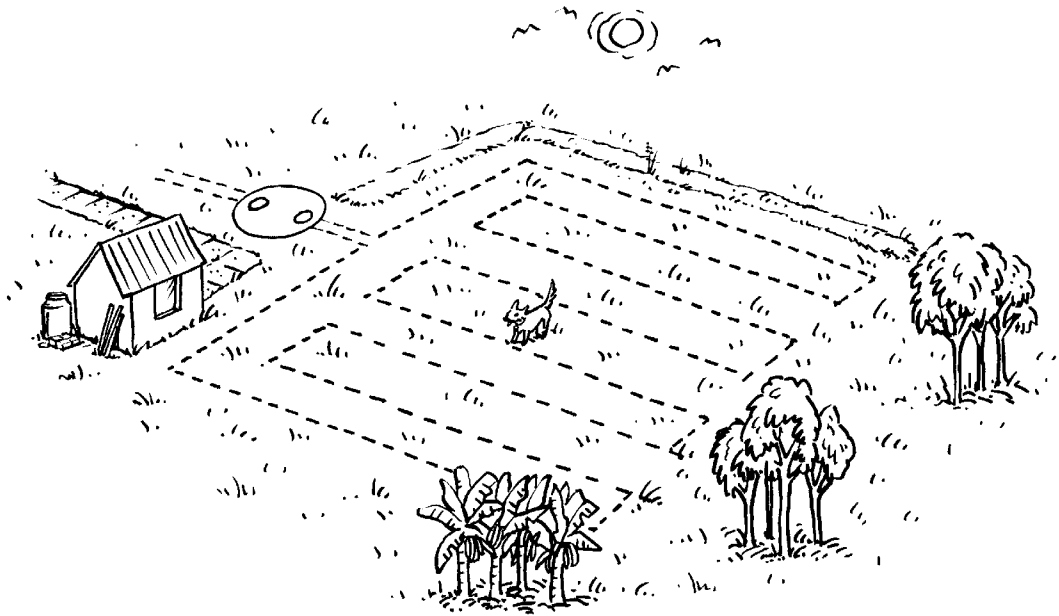
- | DO | |
|----|---|
| ✓ | Ensure your wastewater system is appropriate for the area. Inappropriate systems can pollute the natural environment and pose health risks to humans. |
| ✓ | Regularly maintain the disposal area. Long grass and weeds reduces the evapo-transpiration efficiency. |
| ✓ | Have your septic tank de-sludged every three to five years to prevent sludge build up, which may 'clog' the pipes and absorption trenches. |
| ✓ | Prevent the entry of stormwater onto the disposal area by constructing a diversion drain upslope. Direct the stormwater around the disposal area. |
| ✓ | Ensure your tank and vent are well sealed. This prevents the entry of vermin and mosquitos. |
| ✓ | Conserve Water. The less water you use the drier the disposal area will be, especially through the cooler months. |
| ✓ | Check household products for suitability for use with a septic tank. Use biodegradable liquid detergents, such as concentrates with low phosphorous and low sodium. |
| ✓ | Have your grease trap (if installed) cleaned out regularly. |
| ✓ | Learn the location and layout of your septic system and disposal area. |
| ✓ | Keep a record of pumping, inspections, and other maintenance. |

- | DON'T | |
|-------|--|
| ✗ | Don't allow livestock to graze on the absorption/transpiration area. This can lead to compaction and collapse of the area. |
| ✗ | Don't put large quantities of bleaches, disinfectants, whiteners, nappy soakers and spot removers into your septic tank via the sink, washing machine or toilet. |
| ✗ | Don't allow any foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, condoms and other hygiene products to enter the system. |
| ✗ | Don't put fats and oils down the drain and keep food waste out of your system. |
| ✗ | Don't install or use a garbage grinder or spa bath if your system is not designed for it. |
| ✗ | Medicines/antibiotics can also kill the essential bacteria in your septic system. |

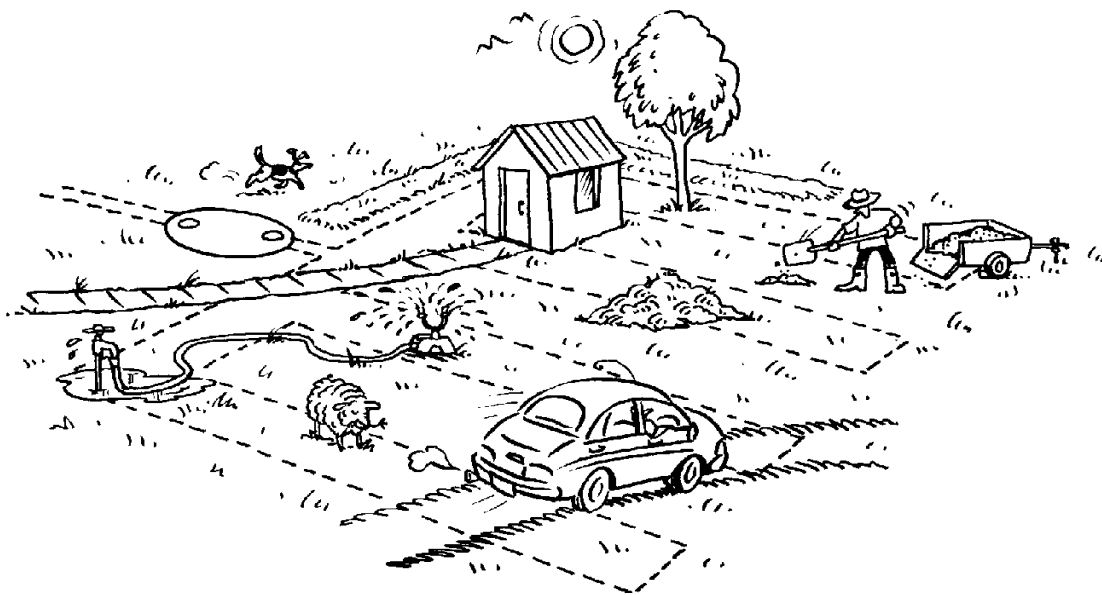
What to do if there is a Problem With Your Septic Tank or Disposal Area

If there is a problem with your septic tank or disposal area that has potential to impact on the environment or public health then you **must** by law do something about it. Indications of a problem include foul smells from the tank or disposal area; toilets and drains that back up or drain slowly; high water level in the septic tank; tanks not de-sludged in the last 5 years or a wet/soggy disposal area. Do not ignore the problem, it will only get worse and could cost you more money in the long term.

For advice prior to carrying out any alterations/modifications to existing systems or the installation of a new system you should contact Council
For operational problems with an existing system you should contact a licensed plumber



This is a well-maintained absorption area



Don't treat your absorption area like this

If you require further information contact Council on 49800394