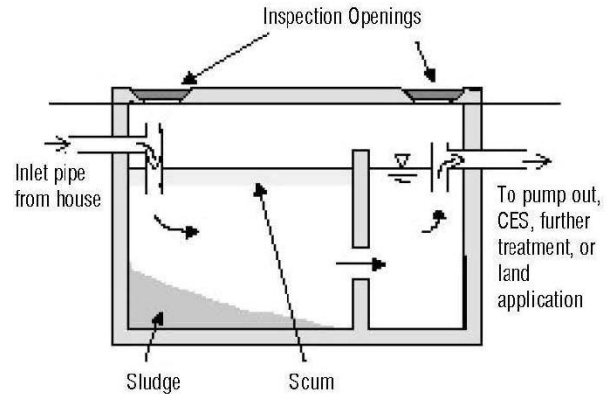




Septic Tank and Disposal Trenches

Checklist for Operation

- Be water wise
- Don't put chemicals into the system
- Don't drive on trench area and fence live stock out of trench area
- Maintain grass in trench area for better evapo-transpiration
- Install stormwater diversion upslope of the trench area
- Consider installation of outlet filter in septic tank



Cross Section of a Septic Tank

Septic Tank

Lid Sealed

Ensure lid is sealed for prevention of odours and insects and optimum conditions for bacteria breakdown

Inspection caps in place

Ensure inspection caps in place, replace damaged or missing inspection caps

T sections connected on inlet and outlet

Ensure T sections are present in the inlet and outlet sections

Crust layer present within tank

Crust layer should be present at the top of the septic tank

Pumped out by authorised contractor every 3 to 5 years

Septic tanks should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years to avoid blockages from sludge build up and ensure efficient treatment process within the septic tank. It is noted that pumpout frequency will vary depending on the number of occupants within the dwelling

No odour from septic tank

If odours are coming from septic tank ensure that no chemicals are going into the system (eg bleaches, disinfectants or pesticides). You may also need to reduce water usage and add a septic tank additive such as enzymes

Grease Trap (Older system)

Grease trap cleaned out regularly and appropriate sealed lid

Regular cleaning of grease trap ensures no grease and solids from greywater enter and clog up trench

Distribution Box (If present)

Lid not cracked, trenches rotated regularly

Replace lid if cracked, rotate trenches regularly so that trenches work and rest at regular intervals

Absorbtion Trench Area

Grass maintained in trench area

Ensure grass is regularly mown in trench area to aid evapo-transpiration

Trenches are **not** soggy underfoot, pooling or seeping

If trenches are soggy underfoot immediate reduction in water usage or further trenching is required. If trenches are pooling or seeping, seek advise from licensed plumber or contact Councils Environmental Officer