RESPONSIBLE WASTEWATER

ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISCHARGES INFORMATION

HAWKE'S BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

THIS BOOKLET WILL HELP YOU TO INSTALL A NEW SYSTEM WITH INFORMATION ON:

- Rules for discharging domestic wastewater on-site
- Accredited systems and installers
- Resource consent requirements and costs
- Keeping your system serviced and maintained

NEW SYSTEMS

Installing a new system?

The information in this booklet will help you install a functional and legal wastewater system, take you through the consent process and associated costs, and ensure you understand the maintenance requirements.

Firstly you need to find out the rules for discharging wastewater on your site - these vary according to location. Then work out how many people the system will be designed for - this will help determine the land area needed for treatment, and any reserve area. **You need to do this before you start planning landscaping and home design.**

The design and installation of a wastewater system can be a complex process. We recommend you seek advice from an HBRC accredited designer/installer who can help you through this process (see page 4 for information on the accredited programme).

Please Remember

HBRC Consents staff are unable to design your wastewater system for you. You need to contact your local drain layer or an HBRC accredited designer/installer.

Make sure that your drain layer is familiar with the **Australia/New Zealand 1547:2012 On-site Domestic Wastewater Management** as Hawke's Bay Regional Council uses this standard in its assessment alongside Figure 6 of the Regional Resource Management Plan or Schedule N of the Regional Coastal Environmental Plan (if your property is located within the coastal environment).

1. WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL RULES?

The wastewater discharge rules for Hawke's Bay.

These are contained in the Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) and the Regional Coastal Environment Plan (RCEP). Any new sewage system installed must comply with Rule 37 of the RRMP or Rule 28 of the RCEP, otherwise you will need to apply for a **resource consent**.

COMMON FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Location of property
- The site area
- Soil type
- Number of bedrooms proposed
- Site specific wastewater design

2. SITE AND SOIL ASSESSMENTS

When are Advanced Primary Treatment tanks (septic tanks with a filter) and Land Treatment Areas OK?

- On properties over 2,500 m^2
- Where the water table is well below the ground surface
- Where there are no streams or drains nearby and the soil has good drainage
- Where the soil category and topography is suitable.

When is a higher level of treatment (secondary and/or tertiary) required?

- On sites less than 2,500 m^2
- Where there are environmental constraints to land application such as heavy soils, high water tables, slopes and unconfined aquifers.

A site and soil assessment will determine the most appropriate system and treatment level required. It should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person (see page 4 for the wastewater accreditation programme).

It should include a site inspection looking at - slope, shape and aspect, exposure to sun/wind, stability, location of watercourses, water supply bores, potential for flooding and channelled runoff, soil for drainage capacities, and indication of high water tables.

Circular Image: Biorock (NZ) Ltd

3. SELECT YOUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM

There can be more than one solution to any one site, so you may need to seek advice and obtain a number of quotes.

There will be advantages and disadvantages for any solution. The wastewater system can take up a significant area of your site - you should understand the site management and location of the system before finalising your site layout.

4. SITE PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

You can now finalise the footprint for your house.

Your site plan will include details of the on-site wastewater system for the resource consent application (if you require one) and for the building permit. These are also useful reference documents for yourself and future owners.

ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

A Wastewater Accreditation Programme for on-site domestic wastewater system and industry professionals has been established by HBRC.

This recognises the high quality of industry professionals in Hawke's Bay. The programme registers accredited designers, system types, and installers/maintenance for their high levels of performance, expertise and service.

Benefits

Accredited designers gain cost and time savings in the resource consent and compliance processes. Consent holders do not pay routine compliance inspection fees where they have a council-accredited system installed and maintained by an accredited installer/service provider.

Find an Accredited Provider

You can identify these professionals by this stamp (which will vary depending on the service provided).

More information on **www.hbrc.govt.nz,** search #wastewater

Circular image: Biorock (NZ) Ltd

RESOURCE CONSENT

Who should apply if a resource consent is required?

A resource consent should be **applied for** under the property owner's name and signed by them. However, it is generally **completed** by the manufacturer's agent or by the HBRC-accredited designer, as they are able to complete all the technical aspects of the application.

Resource consent costs

The **deposit** for an application for a Resource Consent is **$1150** (incl. GST).

HBRC charges actual and reasonable costs, so if you fill out the application form completely, and there are no issues that require additional examination, you may receive a refund. On average, wastewater discharge consents cost between **$850 - $1500** (incl. GST).

Contact us

Please contact our Consents Administrator on **(06) 835 9210** who will be happy to help with any questions you may have in terms of the consenting process.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FEES

No fees - Consent holders with an on-site domestic wastewater treatment system that is on the HBRC accredited list, and installed and maintained by an accredited installer/service person or company, **do not pay for routine compliance inspection fees**.

Fees - Annual compliance inspection fees, as set by the annual plan, are charged to consent holders with:

- an on-site domestic wastewater treatment system that is not council-accredited, or
- an accredited system that is not installed and maintained by an accredited installer/service person or company.

These inspections are necessary to ensure that non-accredited systems are **adequately installed and functioning correctly** in accordance with the conditions of consent.

SERVICING

You need to ensure that your system is properly maintained so that it continues to work well and comply with regional rules.

You should seek advice from the installer and/or system manufacturer about what maintenance is required. Maintenance requirements will also be in the conditions of your consent and must be met.

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM:

- Regularly inspect your system and pump your tank as necessary
- Use water efficiently
- Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets
- Care for your disposal field

ADVANCED PRIMARY (septic tank with filter)

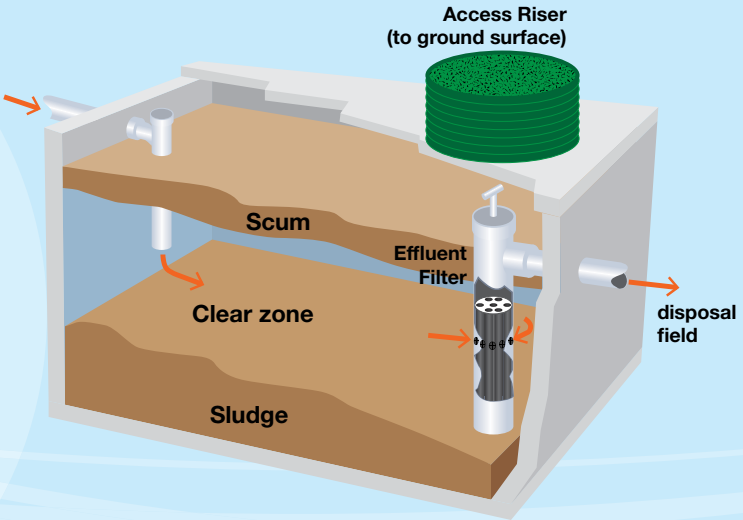
Pump out the sludge and scum that will accumulate in the tank over time and will reduce effective operation.

The rate of sludge and scum accumulation varies, but generally the tank should be **pumped out** by a contractor **every three years**.

Clean out the filter on the outlet **at least once a year** (or as required), if the system has a filter. If the filter blocks, wastewater may discharge from the lowest gully trap and, if this happens often, it could mean the septic tank needs to be de-sludged.

Ask your installer for a copy of the manufacturer's guidelines or servicing requirements.

AN EFFICIENT SCEPTIC TANK



SECONDARY SYSTEM
(aerated systems)

An aerated wastewater treatment system is a large underground tank or series of tanks to treat wastewater.

The primary chamber works much like a septic tank. In the second chamber the effluent is treated with air from a blower, and the third chamber clarifies the effluent before discharge.

Most aerated wastewater treatment systems require a **service every 6 to 12 months** by the installer/supplier under a maintenance contract. All pumps, aerators, alarms and sludge returns will be checked and drip lines flushed (if applicable). If in doubt, ask your installer for a copy of the manufacturer's guidelines and servicing requirements.

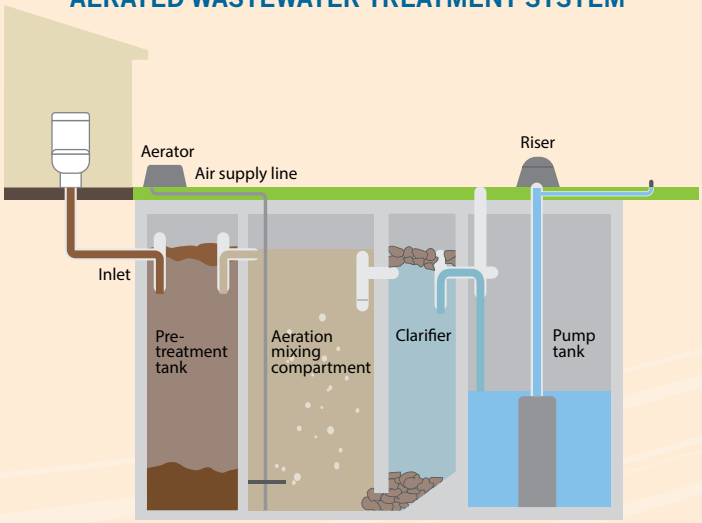
EFFLUENT APPLICATION AREA
(disposal field)

It is important to inspect the effluent application area frequently. Walk over the effluent application area to ensure that effluent is not ponding.

If the area appears to be water logged, you should reduce the amount of water your household is using, or alternatively you can install water reduction fixtures. Ensure that excess stormwater runoff is directed away from the land application area.
You should contact your service provider to ensure that the system is functioning correctly.

If your system has dripline irrigation, these lines need flushing **every 6-12 months**, repair broken points and valves to avoid uneven loading.

AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM



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ISBN: 978-0-947499-07-5
November 2017

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