

Looking After Your Aerated Septic System

Having your septic system serviced quarterly is required by NSW Health and essential to ensure that your system is well maintained. In addition to this, how you treat your tank and what you put down your drains and toilets will impact how your system works.

✓ DO

- ✓ **EVERY DAY** watch your water usage – avoid overloading your washing machine, use biodegradable products that are low in phosphorous and sodium.
- ✓ **EVERY MONTH** check that your irrigation lines are clear and sprinklers are working (see our guide on how to do this). And don't forget – if you have sub surface irrigation, you will need to clean filters between services.
- ✓ **EVERY 3 MONTHS** BluenGrey will conduct your quarterly services and check your system and irrigation.
- ✓ **EVERY 3-5 YEARS** contact BluenGrey to pump out the residual sludge in your tanks. Check your quarterly service reports to see if a pump out has been recommended.

✗ DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** flush antibacterial wipes or sanitary products down the toilet.
- ✗ **DON'T** put fats, oils, milk down the drains.
- ✗ **DON'T** use cleaning agents containing bleach, disinfectant, nitrogen, phosphorous and caustic soda, methylisothiazolinone.
- ✗ **DON'T** use antibacterial cleaning products, fabric softeners or whiteners .
- ✗ **DON'T** switch the power off to the aerated septic system, even if you are on holidays or not using the house.
- ✗ **DON'T** lift the lid of the aerated septic system to see what is inside.
- ✗ **DON'T** try to service the aerated septic system yourself.

Kitchen

- ✓ **DO** use low sodium, low phosphorous dishwasher powders such as Palmolive, Trix, Sunlight, Bushland, Morning Fresh or GreenApple*.
- ✓ **DO** use spray bottle type cleaners.
- ✓ **DO** use products that are non chlorine, non-amonia, non toxic and biodegradable.

- ✗ **DON'T** put fats, oils and milk down the sinks or drains.
- ✗ **DON'T** put food waste down the sinks or drains.
- ✗ **DON'T** use bleach, drain cleaners (foaming, solid, crystal).
- ✗ **DON'T** pour large quantities of beer, wine, milk or fruit juice down sinks or drains.
- ✗ **DON'T** overuse cleaning products.

Bathroom

- ✓ **DO** clean with cream cleansers, a spray bottle type cleaner or a small amount of ordinary detergent.
- ✓ **DO** use a microfibre cloth – but don't flush it down the toilet.
- ✓ **DO** choose biodegradable low phosphorous products such as Dynamo, Coldwater Surf and Biozet.

- ✗ **DON'T** flush any sanitary products, condoms, nappies, cleaning wipes down the toilet.
- ✗ **DON'T** use hair dye (if you do, rinse your hair outside away from drains).
- ✗ **DON'T** use Exit Mould or Domestos*, Commercial toilet or "blue" cleaners.
- ✗ **DON'T** use bleach.
- ✗ **DON'T** use recycled toilet paper.
- ✗ **DON'T** flush medicines (ie antibiotics) down the drain.
- ✗ **DON'T** use bath oils as they difficult for the system to break down.
- ✗ **DON'T** use antibacterial handwash.

- ✓ **DO** spread your washing through the week and avoid having one "wash day"
- ✓ **DO** choose biodegradable low phosphorous products such as Dynamo, Coldwater Surf and Biozet*.
- ✓ **DO** use fabric softeners as they prevent your wastewater being properly treated.
- ✗ **DON'T** use fabric softeners as they prevent your wastewater being properly treated.
- ✗ **DON'T** use bleach or powders with added whiteners, antibacterial agents or disinfectants such as Napisan* or products containing Benzyl Alkonium Chloride (BKC).
- ✗ **DON'T** use bleach, tea tree oil or eucalyptus oil (in large amounts).
- ✗ **DON'T** use more than the recommended amount of detergent.
- ✗ **DON'T** flush methylated spirits, turpentine, or paint down the drains.
- ✗ **DON'T** discard pesticides, herbicides, weed/insect killers or solvents.
- ✗ **DON'T** flush kitty litter down the toilet as it is clay based and can cause blockages.

Around the tank and disposal area

- ✓ **DO** make sure the irrigation area is mowed around sprinklers.
- ✓ **DO** check that the irrigation line is free of kinks.
- ✓ **DO** check the sprinkler heads are not blocked.
- ✓ **DO** look for water ponding and pipe leaks.
- ✗ **DON'T** drive or park on any part of the irrigation area.

* Note: Not all suitable products are included on this list, this is a recommendation only.

Warning signs that there is a problem

- ⚠ Alarm is going off
- ⚠ Sprinklers are not working
- ⚠ Sewage smells around tank
- ⚠ Excessive noise or rattling
- ⚠ Noisy or gurgling drain pipes
- ⚠ Water draining too slowly
- ⚠ Water around tank
- ⚠ Unable to hear the air pumps working

If you can hear the alarm or see that the service alarm light is on, and if there is a bad smell contact BluenGrey on **1300 764 558**



We make the decisions about water and septic simple