

Looking After Your Disposal Area

If you have an aerated wastewater treatment system (AWTS) or a septic tank, the wastewater will need to be disposed of onto a designated area of your property.

This area is often called a 'disposal area'. Maintaining your disposal area is essential to ensure that your septic system is well maintained. Here is a guide to looking after your disposal area:

✓ DO	Sub Surface	Surface	Absorption Trenches	Evapotranspiration Beds
Learn the location and layout of your effluent disposal area	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensure all products used in the household are safe for the system (no bleaches, wipes – See 'Looking after your Aerated Septic System')	✓	✓	✓	✓
Address any maintenance issues identified by your Service Technician	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conservative water use around the house will reduce the amount of wastewater which is produced and needs to be treated	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regularly mow the effluent irrigation area/trench area	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manage vegetation around the tank	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain vegetation cover with plants and grasses	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain surrounding landscape and vegetation to minimise shading and maximise exposure	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check that the tank is regularly desludged	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regularly clean filters installed on irrigation systems	✓	✓		
Back flush irrigation lines to remove any biofilm build up and prevent blockages	✓			
Check pumps are working correctly	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check around bed/trench for signs of leakage, and water level in inspection ports to ensure it is not flooded			✓	✓
Ensure all sprinklers are working		✓		
Where manual switching valves are installed, switch them as indicated		✓	✓	✓
Move above ground hose and sprays regularly		✓		
Ensure appropriate warning signs are visible at all times	✓	✓	✓	✓

✗ DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** let children play in the absorption trench area
- ✗ **DON'T** drive over or disturb absorption trenches/effluent irrigation area
- ✗ **DON'T** water fruit and vegetables with effluent
- ✗ **DON'T** build structures on the absorption trench or plant trees that will shade it
- ✗ **DON'T** irrigate the area with water
- ✗ **DON'T** drive cars on the disposal area
- ✗ **DON'T** cover the disposal area with concrete or pavers
- ✗ **DON'T** store loads of soil or other materials on your absorption trench area
- ✗ **DON'T** place extra topsoil on top of your trench to 'soak up' a damp area
- ✗ **DON'T** extract untreated groundwater for cooking or drinking
- ✗ **DON'T** install or use a garbage grinder or spa bath if your system is not designed for it