

## ONSITE WASTE-WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (OWMS)

If you live on a property that is not serviced by TasWater sewer mains, your dwelling would use an OWMS to treat the wastewater generated from your dwelling.

Most OWMS use natural biological processes in the treatment of waste.

For the OWMS to work effectively and not cause environmental harm or a risk to health and safety, it needs to be maintained.

Regular maintenance ensures that your OWMS works effectively to treat waste and it also avoids expensive repair/replacement costs.

There are two common types of OWMS in the municipality.

### 1

### SEPTIC SYSTEM

Waste flows from the dwelling via drains into a treatment chamber.

In this chamber, solids are trapped and broken down by natural biological processes (bacteria etc.).

Liquid from the chamber then drains to subsurface dispersion beds (trenches) and seeps through the surrounding soil where it is further treated by natural processes.

These OWMS require regular pumping by licensed waste-water treatment operators to ensure sludge from the chamber does not enter the dispersion beds and cause system failure.

The frequency that a septic system needs to be pumped out depends on three factors:

- the size of the system;
- the number of people living in your household; and
- the substances that the system has to treat.

Note: placing of non-natural substances into a septic system will reduce the biological activity in the tank.



Generally, your septic tank will need to be pumped out once every 2 - 5 years. It is suggested that you seek advice from a suitably qualified person if you notice any of the following:

- your system is generating a strong odour
- you are experiencing blockages
- there is water pooling in the vicinity of the treatment beds.

## 2

### **AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (AWTS)**

AWTS use the process of clarification and mechanical aeration of wastewater to promote biological activity in treatment chambers. This breaks down waste to acceptable levels where it is then pumped out to dispersion beds.

Depending on the type of AWTS and what has been approved by Council, the dispersion beds can be located either on the surface in the form of sprinklers or below the surface.



It is a legal requirement that landowners engage in a maintenance contract with a licenced person to maintain an AWTS.

The maintenance person will ensure that the AWTS is operating effectively and inform you of any system issues that require rectifying.

### **MAINTAINING OWMS**

The service life of OWMS can vary, however, regular maintenance and monitoring of substances that are discharged to the systems can extend service life.

The use of environmentally friendly products in a household can support biological activity, thereby improving system effectiveness and extending the service life of the OWMS.

Please note that there are other types of OWMS installed on properties within the municipality.

If you would like to find out more information about the OWMS installed on your property and the maintenance requirements associated with the system, please contact Council.

### **Contact Development Services**

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