

Sewage Management

Decommissioning your onsite sewage management system

As reticulated sewerage progresses through an area and premises connect to the sewer, existing septic tanks, collection wells and aerated wastewater treatment systems may no longer be required. These onsite sewage management facilities are required to be decommissioned.

In order to protect public health and the environment it is essential to have all onsite sewage management systems decommissioned in a safe manner. Septic tanks, collection wells and aerated wastewater treatment systems (AWTS) require different procedures to be followed to ensure that the risk to health and the environment is minimised.

Decommissioning in-ground concrete and plastic tanks

To decommission your in ground concrete tanks, following connection to the reticulated sewerage system, you will be required to undertake the following:

1. Following connections of the house to Hunter Water's sewer, a licenced plumber is to disconnect and cap all pipes from the household, which connect to the onsite sewage management system.
2. Contact a licensed waste service provider to book a final pump out and desludge of your system. This is usually made for the same day of connection but must be completed within 5 days of your connection to the sewer. The tank/s are to be desludged and cleaned by a licensed waste service provider.
3. If the system is an AWTS all internal components are to be cleaned during the desludge and removed for disposal at a licensed waste facility.
4. The tank must be disinfected by spreading Builders' (Hydrated) Lim over the interior and lid of the tank.
5. The tank lid must be removed holes are to be drilled in the base of the tank and lid and walls are to be collapsed into the tank.
6. Retain a copy of your desludge docket for your records.
7. Following collapse of the tank, the tank must be backfilled with a free draining soil and hydrated lime. A garden or turf can then be placed over the top.

Decommissioning above-ground concrete and plastic tanks

In order to decommission an above ground concrete or plastic tank, following connection to the reticulated sewerage system you will be required to undertake the following works.:

1. Following connection of the house to Hunter Water's sewer, a licensed plumber is to disconnect and cap all pipes from the household, which connected to the onsite sewage management system.
2. Contact a licensed waste service provider to book a final pump out and desludge of your system. This is usually made for the same day of connection but must be completed within 5 days of your connection to the sewer. The tank/s are to be desludged and cleaned by a licensed waste service provider.
3. If the system is an AWTS all internal components are to be cleaned during the desludge and removed for disposal at a licensed waste facility.
4. The tank must be removed from the site and transported by a licensed waste facility.
5. Retain a copy of your desludge docket for your records.

Reuse of wastewater tanks for stormwater collection

If you wish to retain your tanks for stormwater, please refer to lakemac.com.au/development/planning-controls/wyee.

For more information

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