

AWTS SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The electrical components and moving parts in an AWTS require regular servicing and therefore have a limited service life. Owners of a property with an AWTS system are required to enter into a service contract (for a minimum period of 12 months) and ensure that the system is serviced every 3 months. When choosing a service agent, you need to ensure that they have the appropriate qualifications to be servicing your type of system. A typical 3 monthly service will generally include:

- Replenish the disinfectant (e.g. chlorine tablets).
- Check pumps, air blower, fan or venturi.
- Check alarm systems.
- Check slime growth on filter media.
- Measure sludge depth in the primary and clarification chambers.
- Check operation of sludge return.
- On-site testing of free residual chlorine, pH and dissolved oxygen.
- Check the condition of the irrigation area.

Upon completion of the service, the agent will provide you with a copy of a fully completed service report. A copy of this service report is to be provided to Council in a timely manner.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit Council's website www.wagga.nsw.gov.au for:

- Council's On-Site Sewage Management Plan.
- Application forms for new installations and upgrades.
- Fact sheets.
- Home owner monitoring AWTS Performance Checklist.

Be water wise

Reducing the amount of household water you use will help prevent problems such as the overloading of your AWTS, which may result in a blockage or wastewater entering your house or a nearby waterway.

AWTS are unable to cope with large volumes of water such as several loads of washing over a short period of time. Avoid these 'shock loads' by ensuring water use is spread evenly throughout the day and week.



Performance standards

An On-site Sewage Management System must be operated in a manner that achieves the following performance standards:

- (a) the prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms,
- (b) the prevention of the spread of foul odours,
- (c) the prevention of contamination of water,
- (d) the prevention of degradation of soil and vegetation,
- (e) the discouragement of insects and vermin,
- (f) ensuring that persons do not come into contact with untreated sewage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned,
- (g) the minimisation of any adverse impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands,
- (h) if appropriate, provision for the re-use of resources (including nutrients, organic matter and water).



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AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES



Poorly maintained Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems are a serious source of water pollution and may present health risks, unpleasant odours, attract vermin and insects.

By having your system regularly serviced and appropriately maintained you are protecting the environment and the health of your family.

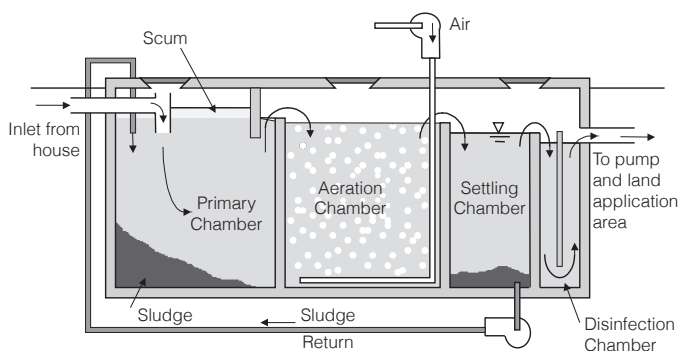
KNOW YOUR AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) is a small scale on-site sewage treatment plant. Through a series of treatment and disinfectant processes, household wastewater is treated to a standard where the treated wastewater can be used on lawns and gardens.

How it works

An AWTS consists of one or two wastewater tanks, which contain a series of chambers. Wastewater enters the primary chamber where solids settle to the bottom to form a sludge layer. The scum layer, containing fats and greases, collects at the top of the chamber. The clarified wastewater flows from between the two layers to the aeration chamber. In the aeration chamber, the wastewater is aerated and broken down further by biological activity. The wastewater then passes through to the settling chamber where any solids that may still be present are separated/settled. The wastewater is finally disinfected in a chlorination or UV chamber and irrigated through fixed wastewater (lilac) hoses across lawns or gardens either above ground or via a subsurface system.

Cross section of an AWTS



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

To operate an AWTS safely and effectively, your treatment system must be regularly maintained.

AWTS must be maintained and serviced quarterly or as specified in their NSW certifications, by a service technician. Ongoing expenses are to be met by the owner. A copy of the service report is to be provided to Council. The AWTS must be operated continuously and have a constant supply of power to the unit.

The irrigation area of your AWTS must also be well maintained and correctly sized to enable treated wastewater to be disposed of properly without running off the disposal area or being sprayed onto neighboring properties.

As the owner of an AWTS, it is your responsibility to:

- Have the system inspected quarterly by a service technician, unless otherwise approved by NSW Health.
- Ensure the system has a current Licence to Operate and you comply with all its conditions.
- Ensure the tanks don't leak.
- Promptly fix the system if problems are detected.
- De-sludge the system when solid levels become high in the primary chamber.
- Ensure that warning signs are displayed regarding the reuse of wastewater within the disposal area.
- Ensure your irrigation area, sprinklers and irrigation line comply with conditions of approval.

SIGNS YOUR SYSTEM MAY BE FAILING

The following signs may indicate a problem with your AWTS and may signal a failing system:

- Water won't drain away easily.
- Drain pipes with gurgling noise.
- Sewage smells from the drains or system.
- Water backing up into sinks or yard gully.
- Wastewater pooling over the disposal area.
- Black coloured water in the aeration or settling chamber.
- Excess noise from the blower or pumping equipment.
- Poor vegetation growth in the irrigation area.

OPERATING YOUR AWTS

The effectiveness of your system is dependent on how it is operated and maintained. The following is a guide to good maintenance procedures that you should follow.

DO:

- ✓ Become familiar with the location and layout of your AWTS and disposal area.
- ✓ Mow and maintain your disposal area and ensure all sprays are operating effectively.
- ✓ Move your irrigation line around your disposal area to evenly distribute wastewater.
- ✓ Keep up to date with your maintenance services.
- ✓ Ensure your service technician checks the sludge and scum levels in all tanks and checks operation of sludge return lines.
- ✓ Ensure your service technician checks pumps, air blower, fan or vent, alarm systems and slime growth on media filter.
- ✓ Ensure that your service technician carries out testing of free residual chlorine, pH and dissolved oxygen.
- ✓ Ensure the disinfection chamber is inspected and replenished with chlorine tablets after each service if applicable.
- ✓ Have your system de-sludged every 2-5 years.
- ✓ Keep a record of inspections, pump outs and other maintenance.
- ✓ Use biodegradable liquid detergents that are low in sodium and phosphorus.
- ✓ Conserve water.

DON'T:

- ✗ Put bleaches and disinfectants, whiteners, nappy soakers and spot cleaners in large quantities into your AWTS.
- ✗ Allow foreign material such as nappies or other hygiene products to enter the system.
- ✗ Allow excessive amounts of fats and oils to enter the system.
- ✗ Switch off power to the AWTS even if you are going on holidays.
- ✗ Use spray irrigation to water areas where children may play.
- ✗ Use treated wastewater on vegetables or produce to be consumed.
- ✗ Allow livestock into your irrigation area.