



LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

“Did You Know” Fact Sheet

SEPTIC TANK MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

Septic Tank Management and Maintenance

Did you know that properly maintaining septic systems can save you money, protect your investment in your home, and prevent contamination of the groundwater?

When properly maintained, septic systems can provide long-term, effective treatment of household sanitary wastewater. Failing septic systems are costly to repair or replace and can prevent the wastewater from being properly treated. A septic system in good working order uses microbes in the soil to digest or remove harmful contaminants, bacteria and viruses from the wastewater before it reaches the groundwater.

You can protect your septic system by:

- 1) inspecting it every 1 to 3 years and pumping your tank, as necessary, every 3 to 5 years,
- 2) using water efficiently,
- 3) disposing of household hazardous wastes properly and not dumping them into sinks or toilets, and
- 4) caring for your absorption area. Avoid driving over or parking on top of your septic system or absorption area, and plant only grass over and near your absorption area since tree roots can damage the system.

This Table outlines the normal pumping required for conventional septic tanks:

Table I. Septic Tank Pumping Frequency in Years										
	Household size - Number of Occupants									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tank-Gallons/Litres	Septic Tank Pumping Frequency in Years									
500*/2,000L	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
750*/3,000L	9	4	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
900/3,600L	11	5	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
1000/4,000L	12	6	4	3	2	2	1	1	0	0
1250/5,000L	16	8	5	3	3	2	2	1	1	0
1500/6,000L	19	9	6	4	3	3	2	2	1	1

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1750/7,000L	22	10	7	5	4	3	3	2	2	2
2000/8,000L	25	12	8	6	4	4	3	3	2	2
2250/9,000L	28	14	9	6	5	4	3	3	2	2
2500/10,000L	30	15	10	7	6	5	4	3	3	2

NOTES to the Septic Tank Pumping Schedule Table:

- **Numbers in the septic pumping table indicate septic treatment tank pump out in frequency of every XX years** for conventional septic tanks, and assuming for year-round occupancy of the residence.

Council encourages all owners of septic tank to communicate with Licensed Plumbers regarding septic tanks, absorption areas and pump-outs at all times.

Council hopes that this information is helpful and would also like to encourage all septic tank owners to ensure that they have a license to operate the septic system. If you are unsure of whether you have a license please contact council's building department for information.