

AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS DO'S AND DON'TS

Once installed, it is important you know how to use your Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS). An AWTS, like any other wastewater system needs to be maintained properly to ensure the system works properly, but also to save you money.

This guide specifies the common misunderstandings that are related to the ongoing maintenance and correct use of your AWTS.

MUST'S

- ❖ **You must** maintain the correct service arrangement through a qualified service provider for the lifetime of the system. It is extremely important that aerobic systems receive regular maintenance.
- ❖ **You must** keep your system accessible for inspections and pumping, yet protected from unauthorised entrance, if access to your system is locked, make sure that your service contractor has a key.
- ❖ **You must** call a service professional whenever you experience problems with your system, e.g. whenever the alarm is activated, or if there are any signs of system failure.
- ❖ **You must** keep detailed records (including a durable notice permanently located in an area such as a power box) about your aerobic system, including locality map, and general information, such as model name, capacity, date installed, contract service agreement, records of service visits, and maintenance performed.
- ❖ **You must** conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky taps or toilets.
- ❖ **You must** divert roof and surface water from the aerobic tank and irrigation disposal area.
- ❖ **You must** become familiar with how your own particular system operates, and the way it looks, sounds, and smells and when it is working correctly.

- ❖ **You must** ask your service provider questions about how to know if your unit is malfunctioning.

This way, you may be able to identify problems before they become serious and alert your service provider to anything unusual. This may also save you money.



WARNING SIGNS

- ❖ Alarms or lights going off
- ❖ Any changes in the systems normal operating sound
- ❖ Excessive solids, foam or scum
- ❖ Changes or increases in odour

DONT'S

- ❖ **Don't** allow anyone to drive over or park on any part of the system.
- ❖ **Don't** allow access to the irrigation disposal area, including pets.
- ❖ **Don't** make or allow unauthorised repairs or changes to your aerobic system without obtaining Council approval.
- ❖ **Don't** pour harmful chemicals down any drains as chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.
- ❖ **Don't** install any additional fixtures without checking with your Council to make sure that your aerobic system can accommodate this additional waste.
- ❖ **Don't flush;**
Tea leaves, coffee grounds, dental floss, nappies, sanitary napkins or tampons, bandages, condoms, paper towel, kitty litter, cigarette butts, fat, grease, oil, paints, varnishes, thinners, waste oils, pesticides or photographic solutions.
- ❖ **Don't use**
Bleaches, disinfectants, chemical detergents, pesticides or herbicides. Make sure all chemicals used in the household are marked as safe to use in a septic system.

