

On-Site Sewage Management Systems

Water Conservation Tips

It is important to conserve water and reduce the amount of wastewater that flows into your on-site sewage management system. Saving water will optimise the effectiveness of your system and disposal area. It will also save you money on energy use and repairs and maintenance.

Shower and Bathroom:

- Have shorter showers. By having a shower in 5 minutes, you may save up to 40 litres of water each time you shower.
- Ensure you have a water-efficient shower head. Older (non-water efficient) shower heads use 20-30 litres of water per minute compared to approximately 9.5 litres per minute for water efficient shower heads.
- Catch water in a bucket at the bottom of the shower. You can then reuse this water on your garden.
- Use a plug in the sink when washing your hands and face.
- Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth or shaving.
- Don't fill the bath to the brim if you don't need to.

Toilet:

- Try to reduce the number of times you flush a toilet.
- Ensure you have a dual-flush systems.
- Use half and full flush to suit the situation.
- Don't flush any unnecessary items down the toilet (i.e. tissues etc.)

Laundry and Household Cleaning:

- Only run the washing machine when you have a full load or adjust the water level.
- Use any water saving features on your machine.
- Consider purchasing a water-efficient washing machine when it comes time to update your washing machine. Front load washing machines use up to 50% less water, 35% less detergent and 30% less energy than top loaders.

- Use a bucket to hold water when cleaning instead of using running water.

Remember to avoid 'shock loading' of your on-site sewage management system by spacing out your washing over the week rather than multiple loads in one day. This can cause your system to be ineffective and send untreated effluent into the disposal area.

Kitchen:

- Scrape food waste off dishes, instead of rinsing them off with water.
- Don't wash or rinse your dishes with running water, use a tub or plug the sink. Running your tap can use 15 litres per minute.
- Only run your dishwasher when you have a full load, or adjust the water level to suit the size of your load.
- Consider purchasing a water-efficient dishwasher when it comes time to update your dishwasher. Non-efficient dishwashers use up to 25 litres per cycle.
- Don't rinse fruit and vegetables under running water, use a bowl of water.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge instead of always running the tap for water.

By saving water, you might also notice a saving in your energy costs as it takes energy to heat, treat and transfer water.

Fix Leaking Taps

Be sure to fix any dripping taps as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary water from entering your system. You can check if you toilet is leaking by putting a little food colouring in the tank. If the food colouring appears in the bowl without flushing, have your cistern repaired immediately.

More information

Visit Council's website at www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au. Alternatively, contact Council on (02) 6033 8999 and ask to speak to the Environmental Health Officer (EHO).