

» what is an on-site sewage management system

OSSM Factsheet 1

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2017



If you own or rent a house that is not connected to Council's sewage system, you will have some type of on-site sewage management system on the property.

» Different types of systems

Typically the systems listed below provide storage, treatment and disposal of household wastewater in a way that ensures there is minimal impact on public health and the environment. These systems are all classified as on-site sewage management systems and require approval to install and operate. Council will carry out operational compliance audit inspections on these systems:

- Septic Tank
- Aerated Wastewater Treatment System
- Holding tank with pump out
- Wet composting toilet
- Recirculating sand filter system
- Grey water treatment system
- Waterless composting system

On-site sewage management includes any activity carried out for the purpose of holding or processing or reusing or otherwise disposing of sewage or by-products of sewage.

The Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1547 On-Site Domestic Wastewater Management and

Department of Local Government's Environmental and Health Protection Guidelines: On-site Sewage Management for Single Households provide general advice/guidelines on householder's responsibilities for managing an on-site sewage management system.

On-site sewage management is the treatment of wastewater generated within a household and the application of the treated effluent to the land completely within the boundary of the premises. Wastewater includes all wastewater arising from household activities, including wastewater from kitchens, bathrooms and laundries. Accordingly, where the Council centralised sewerage system is not available to a premises, an on-site sewage management is required.

» General notes

The type of system proposed for a particular site requires careful consideration by a suitably qualified and experienced wastewater consultant and/or licensed plumber and drainer. All systems have limitations dependent on a wide range of factors inclusive of how they are used, operated and maintained. Time spent on making the right selection will pay dividends in the future.

» **If you have any questions or concerns please contact:**

**Ballina Shire Council, Development and Environmental Health
Phone 6686 1210**

