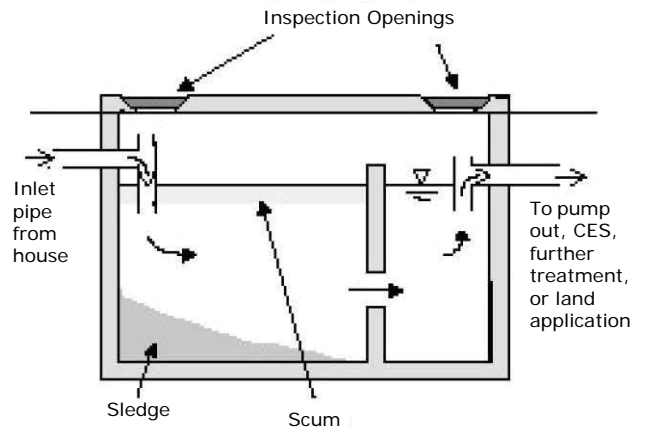


Septic Tank and Disposal Trenches

Checklist for Operation

- Be water wise
- Don't put chemicals into the system
- Don't drive on trench area and fence live stock out of trench area
- Maintain grass in trench area for better evapotranspiration
- Install stormwater diversion upslope of the trench area
- Consider installation of outlet filter in septic tank



Cross Section of a Septic Tank

Septic Tank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lid Sealed	Ensure lid is sealed for prevention of odours and insects and optimum conditions for bacteria breakdown
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspection caps in place	Ensure inspection caps in place, replace damaged or missing inspection caps
	<input type="checkbox"/>	T sections connected on inlet and outlet	Ensure T sections are present in the inlet and outlet sections
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crust layer present within tank	Crust layer should be present at the top of the septic tank
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pumped out by authorised contractor every 3 to 5 years	Septic tanks should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years to avoid blockages from sludge build up and ensure efficient treatment process within the septic tank. It is noted that pumpout frequency will vary depending on the number of occupants within the dwelling
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No odour from septic tank	If odours are coming from septic tank ensure that no chemicals are going into the system (eg bleaches, disinfectants or pesticides). You may also need to reduce water usage and add a septic tank additive such as enzymes
Grease Trap (older systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grease trap cleaned out regularly and appropriate sealed lid	Regular cleaning of grease trap ensures no grease and solids from greywater enter and clog up trench
Distribution box (if present)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lid not cracked, trenches rotated regularly	Replace lid if cracked, rotate trenches regularly so that trenches work and rest at regular intervals
Absorption trench area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass maintained in trench area	Ensure grass is regularly mown in trench area to aid evapo-transpiration
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trenches are not soggy underfoot, pooling or seeping	If trenches are soggy underfoot immediate reduction in water usage or further trenching is required. If trenches are pooling or seeping, seek advise from licensed plumber or contact Councils Environmental Officer

