



GUIDELINES TO INSTALLING AN AEROBIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

Information about the aerobic wastewater treatment system

An aerobic wastewater treatment system is a miniature wastewater treatment plant that treats wastewater which is then disposed by droppers or sprinklers to a dedicated irrigation area.

Aerobic systems use oxygen to break down the effluent. An aerator distributes the air to keep a constant supply of oxygen. This water is then disinfected with chlorine so it can be used for irrigation on dedicated landscaped garden areas.

The irrigation area must be installed by a licensed plumber and a certificate of completion and compliance (COC) issued prior to the house being habited. The irrigation area should be landscaped with plants that are suitable for the transpiration of reclaimed water and be salt and nutrient tolerant.

The occupier of the premises should have received a comprehensive manual on the care, operation and maintenance of the system when it was installed.

As a condition of approval, the occupier of the premises served by an aerobic system must maintain the system to ensure that recycled water complies with safe water-quality standards. The system must be serviced by an appropriately trained person at the specified intervals as required by the manufacturer.

The septic tank part of the aerobic system must be desludged at least every 4 years.

To ensure that the aerobic wastewater treatment system is working efficiently, the use and discharge of strong alkalis, oils, acids, bleaches, disinfectants, chemical detergents, pesticides and herbicides to the system should be avoided.

If you are unsure of how to maintain your aerobic wastewater treatments system, contact the installer of your system or contact Council's Environmental Health Officers at the Cambrai office on 8564 6020.

Information to be provided to Council to obtain approval

✓ **An application form**

The application form **must** be completed and signed by both the owner and applicant.

✓ **Application Fee**

An application fee payable to the Council.

New development (excluding transportable dwellings) \$499.00
 New development (transportable dwellings & new shacks) ... \$371.00

These application fees cover the examination of the application to ensure it complies with the current legal regulations, the approval and inspections of both pre-approval and of the installed system.

✓ **A wastewater engineer's report**

outlining the required irrigation area for the system.

✓ **Site Layout Plan**

Sited site layout plan drawn to scale of 1 in 500 must be included with your application that details:

- Block dimensions
- Contours indicating natural ground fall
- Proposed location of the building and all other structures including sheds, swimming pools and paving etc
- Position of the proposed septic tank, aerobic wastewater treatment system and the surface irrigation area showing all setback distances from boundaries, buildings including sheds, paving and swimming pools.
- Details of any site modification eg benching, cutting and filling.
- Details and location of any diversion trenches to collect surface or migrating subsurface water.
- Details and location of storm, surface and roof water disposal.
- Details of any well, bore, dam used or likely to be used for human and or domestic use.

- Details of any water source used for agricultural, aquacultural or stock purposes.
 - Details of any watercourse, identified on a current 1:50 000 Department of Environment and Water topographic map, used or likely to be used for human and or domestic purposes.
 - Details of the aerobic wastewater system including:
 - ❖ Location of warning signs
 - ❖ Positions of irrigation lines
- ✓ **Building Layout Plan (Plumbing plan)**

A detailed building layout plan drawn to a scale of 1 in 100 must be included with your application that details:

- The position and description of all sanitary fixtures to be connected to the aerobic wastewater treatment system –e.g. toilets, basin, showers, bath, laundry, kitchen
- The method of connecting the fixtures to the drainage systems including location of the drains, positions and size of traps – sanitary fixture, floor waste and overflow relief gully, vents and waste pipes.
- Whether there is a spa bath that is more than 120 litres or there is a food waste disposal unit installed.

Maintenance of Septic Tank

To ensure your septic system is working properly it is important to look after your system. Septic tanks should:

- Be desludged every 4 years.
- Regularly be checked for any debris, grass or tree roots from around the lid area and removed.
- Strong bleaches or detergents should not be placed down the septic system.

Council cannot issue approval until:

- a completed application form, signed by the owner and applicant, has been submitted;
- an application fee has been submitted;
- an Engineer's report outlining the sizing requirements for the irrigation area;
- a site layout plan has been submitted;
- a building layout plan detailing all plumbing has been submitted.

Failure to provide this information will result in delays in approval.

For further information contact the Development and Environmental Services Section of the Mid Murray Council on 08 8564 6020.

Information Sheets

Information Sheets are available to help answer many of your Planning enquiries.

We also have many Information Guides available regarding Planning and Building Issues.

These Information Guides are available from our Cambrai, Mannum and Morgan offices. You can also see them on our website at www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au



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