

Non-standard wastewater services

Development Services – information sheet 11

The Water Corporation prefers gravity sewerage systems to service properties. However, in circumstances where a gravity flow connection is not possible, the Corporation may allow an alternative method to connect the property to the main sewer.

In all cases the owner is required to acknowledge that the service level differs from the Corporation's standard by entering into an agreement regarding the terms and conditions of the service and lodging a notice under Section 70A of the *Transfer of Land Act* on the certificate of title.

Pressure sewer systems

Pressure sewer systems pump sewerage to the Corporation's sewer via a property boundary assembly. The property owner is responsible for its maintenance and annual service charges. Service charges commence from the date the sewer main is available for connection.

Private pumping stations

Private pumping stations are privately owned sewerage pumping stations connected to the Corporation's sewer by a pressure main. The property owner pays installation, maintenance and running costs and is liable for annual service charges from the date the system is connected to the main sewer.

Effluent only discharge schemes

Sewerage schemes that can only convey liquid waste are described as effluent only discharge schemes. The owner must install and maintain the works necessary to manage solid wastes on the property at his cost. Also pay annual service charges from the date the sewer main is available for connection¹.

Frequently asked questions

Do these systems need much maintenance?

The system is mechanical and all mechanical systems need periodical maintenance. You should consult with the installer or a plumber to set up a maintenance plan.

Am I limited on what I can pour down the drain?

As with conventional sewerage systems, strong chemicals, oils, flammables, glass, metal, nappies, plastics, petrochemicals (e.g. petrol and engine oil) should never be put down the drain as they damage the pump.

¹ Vacant land service charges may not be raised if the scheme is of limited capacity, for example Wyndham.

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What do I do if I go away for a long period?

The system does not need to be turned off or altered before you leave. If you plan to be away for more than a few days, make the shower or the washing machine the last use before you go. This will flush the system out.

Is there an alarm to warn me if something is wrong?

An alarm may sound when the pump fails or if the tank fills to the upper limit faster than the pumping rate of the pump. Avoid adding further waste and call a plumber.

What happens if the power fails? Will the pump still work? Will the alarm sound?

If the power fails, the pump and any alarm systems will not work because they both need power. However, most systems come with storage capacity for such events. During power outages, dishwashers and washing machines will not work. Nevertheless, conserve water because the duration of an outage is unpredictable.

What happens to the old septic tank and leach drains?

Some local councils may require your old septic tank and leach drains be 'decommissioned' after you connect to the sewerage system. Contact your local council for further details.

Who is responsible for the removal or carting of waste for effluent only schemes?

The property owner is responsible for arranging suitable disposal of solids from their holding tank as the Water Corporation will not accept solid waste.