

# Care of your Septic system

## Owners reference

### Polymaster septic systems

Septic systems are 'on site' individual wastewater systems that use the soil to absorb and naturally treat wastewater flows. They are typically used where centralised sewerage treatment is impractical or not available.

A septic system uses bacteria to break down the waste and therefore it is important that you do not use cleaning products or dispose of any product down the drainage system that will kill bacteria.

Items to watch out for are:

- Products that contain chlorine or ammonia
- Fats and greases
- Non-degradables such as disposable nappies, sanitary napkins, cat litter, plastics etc.
- Poisons like petrol, paint, thinners, pesticides etc.
- Excessive food scraps

There is a range of biological cleaning products that are made specifically for use with septic tank systems.

### Odours

It is normal in the first few weeks of operation for your septic tank to produce some odours which after a short time will disappear or be replaced with a slight earthy smell. If there is much change to your situation you may find you have used some chemicals or have put a large amount of washing through the laundry. If this is the case the unit will correct itself in a few days; try to spread the laundry evenly over the week as much as possible.

**Remember: less water used means less water to be treated and disposed of.**

### Ground Maintenance

Septic systems have a network of drainage pipes that allows the wastewater to seep into the subsurface soil. The area over this 'drainfield' should be left undisturbed with only a mowed grass cover. Divert excessive ground/stormwater away from this area and be aware that roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage your drain lines. Do not allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the drainage system.

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### Desludging your septic tank

Septic systems overtime will build up with an excess of accumulated solids that should be pumped out every 3-5 years. This depends a lot on the volume that is put through the tank so varies greatly on applications.

Make sure the tank is pumped out by a licensed liquid waste contractor, please see the local council in your area about any special EPA regulations.

Always leave a small volume of effluent in the tank to ensure tank does not float up or become dislodged. Bacteria levels in the tank will restore once wastewater enters the system again.

For more information about maintenance or inspection of your Polymaster Septic System contact the plumber who installed your tank or the local council.

**Please Note: Never allow anyone at any time to enter the septic tank as it is a confined space and once operating is an extreme health risk.**