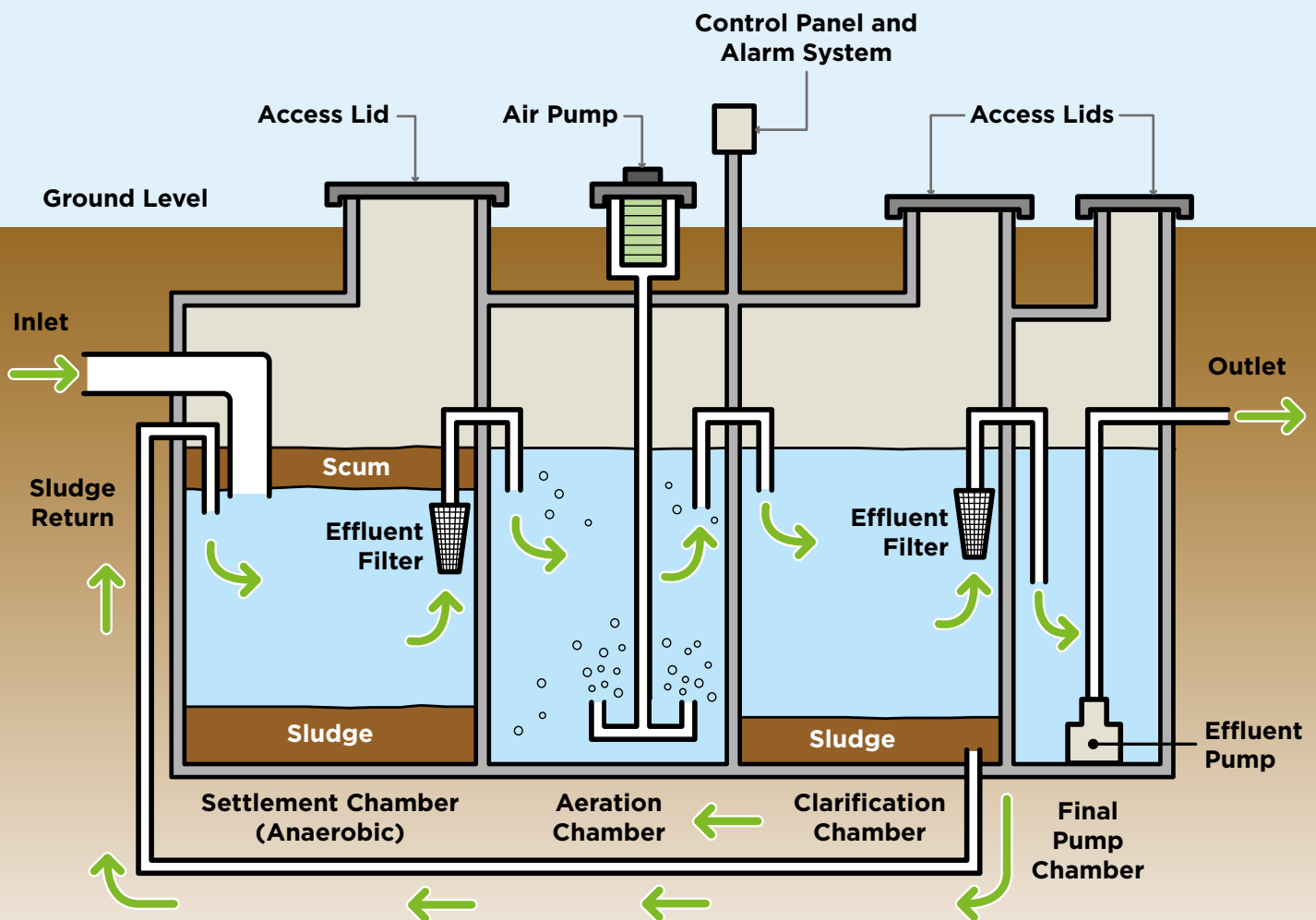


Looking after your Aerated Wastewater Treatment System

The wastewater generated from your household needs to be disposed of carefully. If your property can't access the main sewer system you may need a septic tank or Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS). There are a variety of AWTS types. Generally, an AWTS is a system of underground tanks, filters and a blower that has the potential to treat wastewater to a very high standard before it is returned to the land. On land you generally only see the lids.

Underground your AWTS looks something like this



To effectively process wastewater, and to avoid odours and 'ponding', your AWTS needs regular maintenance by a trained technician every six months.

If your system doesn't work properly you risk your family getting sick, or contaminating the environment.

What you need to do

- Keep your operating instructions and the suppliers name and number on hand
- Call the installer as soon as the alarm is activated. The issue will not resolve itself and only get worse and more expensive to fix
- Call the installer if there are odours, overflows or ponding on the land application area
- Make sure the system is serviced at the required intervals which is usually every six months
- If you sell your property, pass these details on to the next owner
- Care for the land application area by regularly mowing the grass or maintaining the planting and mulch. Make sure all the driplines are covered
- Do not cover any portion of the land application area
- Do not drive over or allow stock on the disposal area.

What does a service include?

The service technician will;

- Make sure all electrical components are operating correctly - including alarms, pumps and controllers

- Clean the blower air filter and adjust the valves
- Ensure the filters and aerators are working correctly
- Reduce the volume of any accumulated sludge
- Clean the final filter
- Flush driplines
- Inspect driplines for leaks, holes or effluent ponding.

Don't want to have a service?

The system warranty may be voided if the system is not serviced.

Most AWTS are installed as a permitted activity, which means as long as you comply with the conditions you do not need resource consent. Regular maintenance is one of these conditions, because a well maintained system is considered low risk to the environment.

If you do not maintain your AWTS, you will be required to apply for resource consent. There is a cost to apply for resource consent, and also an annual consent monitoring fee. A resource consent will include requirements to make sure the AWTS continues to work well and not become a nuisance.

How to care for your AWTS

DO!

- ✓ Scrape dishes before washing
- ✓ Only flush number ones, twos and toilet paper. Nothing else should go down the toilet
- ✓ Install water-saving devices, such as dual/low flush toilets
- ✓ Reduce water usage
- ✓ Divert stormwater away from your land application area
- ✓ Make sure the technician can access the AWTS lids
- ✓ Keep non-biodegradables out of your system

DON'T!

- ✗ Don't use a waste disposal
- ✗ Don't put sanitary napkins, disposable nappies or baby wipes in the system
- ✗ Don't put bleaches, disinfectants, chemicals or paint down the drain
- ✗ Don't allow vehicles or stock on the land application area
- ✗ Don't grow deep rooting plants over soakage trenches or pipes
- ✗ Don't empty chemical toilet waste into your system
- ✗ Don't build on your reserve land application area