

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 507

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS\****

---

#### **AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (AWTS)**

AWTS are on-site wastewater systems that utilise the processes of aeration followed by clarification to achieve biological treatment of wastewater. AWTS treat effluent to a higher quality than septic tanks and are particularly suitable where there are limitations due to site, soil and climatic factors. A correctly operated and maintained AWTS is an acceptable alternative method to treating domestic sewage to reduce environmental and public health risks associated with other less effective treatment and disposal methods.

Some AWTS require a separate primary treatment tank (septic tank) and secondary treatment tank while others comprise a larger single tank incorporating primary treatment, aeration, clarification, settling, disinfection and storage chambers. The resultant wastewater is discharged to a dedicated shallow sub-surface or drip irrigation area. The Department of Health and Families - Environmental Health Program will not permit spray irrigation without prior approval.

\*These procedures also apply to Biological Filter Systems and Greywater Treatment Systems.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF INSTALLATION**

##### ***Single Domestic Premises – inside a Building Control Area and outside a Water Management Zone***

Prior to the installation of a Product Approved AWTS, the system Manufacturer or Manufacturer's Agent must firstly notify Environmental Health using the *Notification for the Installation of a Product Approved Alternative Septic Tank System for a single residential dwelling in a Building Control Area*.

Upon receipt of the Notification, Environmental Health will respond to the system owner acknowledging the proposed system and advising the owner of their responsibilities for owning and managing an AWTS. The Manufacturer/Agent and DPI Building Advisory Services will be copied into the correspondence.

#### **SITE SPECIFIC DESIGN APPROVAL**

- ***Single Domestic Premises:***
  - ***Inside a Building Control Area and inside a Water Management Zone***
  - ***Outside a Building Control Area***
- ***All Commercial & Industrial Premises and Multi-Unit Residential Developments to a maximum 150 EP***

Prior to the installation of an AWTS (even if it has Product Approval), the system Manufacturer or Manufacturer's Agent must firstly make application to Environmental Health using the *Application for the Site Specific Design Approval*.

Upon receipt of the Application, Environmental Health will respond to the applicant and issue Conditions of Approval. The Owner and DPI Building Advisory Services (if system is located in a Building Control Area) will be copied into the correspondence.

For larger systems servicing Commercial & Industrial and Multi-Unit Residential Developments, Environmental Health will upon receipt of a Site Specific Design Approval Application make a determination on whether the proposal needs to be assessed in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Management of a Recycled Water System*.

### RECYCLED WATER SYSTEMS

The *Guidelines for the Management of a Recycled Water System* apply to proposals that involve large recycled water systems less than 150 EP that are deemed by Environmental Health to be of a higher risk to the public and/or the environment. Prior to installation of the AWTS, the system Manufacturer or Manufacturer's Agent must firstly make application to Environmental Health for an *Approval to Install a Recycled Water System* and then prior to commissioning, make application for an *Approval to Operate a Recycled Water System*.

### PLUMBER'S CERTIFICATION OF AN AWTS

- **Inside a Building Control Area**

The installing plumber must self-certify the system (inclusive of the effluent disposal area) in accordance with the requirements of the *Building Act* and submit self-certified documentation to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure – Building Advisory Services.

- **Outside a Building Control Area**

The installing plumber must certify the system (inclusive of the effluent disposal area) in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Health Regulations* and submit a *Certification of Installation of a Septic Tank outside a Building Control Area* to Environmental Health

### BUILDING CONTROL AREAS AND WATER MANAGEMENT ZONES

Building Control Areas are defined under the *Building Act*. There are links to DPI's Building Control Area maps on the Environmental Health website.

Water Management Zones are declared by Power and Water Corporation, who can be contacted on 1800 245 092 for further information.

### CONTACTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Website: [www.nt.gov.au/health/envirohealth](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/envirohealth)

Email: [envirohealth@nt.gov.au](mailto:envirohealth@nt.gov.au)

|      | Darwin Urban | Darwin Rural | Katherine     | Katherine West Health Board |
|------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Ph.  | 8922 7377    | 8922 7481    | 8973 9062     | 8971 9315                   |
|      |              | 8922 7483    | 8973 9061     |                             |
| Fax. | 8922 7036    | 8922 7036    | 8973 9063     | 8972 1233                   |
|      | East Arnhem  | Barkly       | Alice Springs | Tiwi Islands                |
| Ph.  | 8987 0440    | 8962 4302    | 8955 6122     | 8922 8198                   |
|      | 8987 0441    |              |               |                             |
| Fax. | 8987 0444    | 8962 4420    | 8952 5927     | 8922 7979                   |

fact sheet