

Household Discharges to Septic Systems

Your septic system operates best under certain conditions, consider the below simple actions to help ensure your system works effectively.

Water

Minimise water entering the system to reduce the likelihood of overloading your system. Overloading can result in saturation of your discharge field, which can cause wastewater to discharge above ground.

- Install water saving devices
- Have shorter showers
- Spread out operation of major water consuming devices over the week (e.g. washing machine)
- Wait until you have a full load before using the dishwasher or washing machine
- Repair leaking taps and toilets.



Chemicals

Your septic system contains a delicate ecosystem of bacteria that help to treat your wastewater, ensuring that the water that leaves the system meets required standards.

Do the following to protect your bacteria:

- Avoid harsh chemicals, e.g. bleach
- Choose low Phosphorous detergents
- Use low sodium laundry detergents
- Select Septic Safe products wherever possible

Grey Water

Some homes have a separate system for grey water collection. Grey water is the wastewater that comes from the kitchen, laundry and bathroom.

Be aware that grey water may have a high number of bacteria and viruses and needs to be treated similarly to general discharges to septic systems.

Toilets aren't

trash cans!

Non-degradable Products

Products that are not easily biodegradable should NEVER be disposed of to a septic system. These will only serve to reduce the proper functioning of your system and possibly cause it to fail.

Such items include:

- Sanitary products
- Baby wipes and cleaning wipes
- Hair
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Nappies
- Band-aids and wound dressings
- Cat litter

Contact Us:

For further information, please contact Council's Environmental Health team on 5662 9200 or visit Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/wastewater

Food Products

When large quantities of food particles enter the wastewater system it slows down its function and potentially alters the bacterial composition. Fats and oils can also solidify in wastewater pipes and the septic system, restrict or blocking the flow of water.

- Use a sink strainer to capture food debris
- Do not pour oil and fats down the sink
- Wipe grease out of pans and dishes before washing them
- Don't dispose of waste food or coffee grounds down the sink.

