

HEALTH SERVICES INFOSHEET

DECOMMISSIONING OF SEPTIC SYSTEM

Introduction

The decommissioning of a septic apparatus involves the following steps;

1. Pumping out of the septic tanks by a by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The contractor will then provide a receipt.
2. Removal of the entire septic apparatus, which includes all septic tanks, soak wells / leach drains. The most effective way to ensure that the entire system is removed is to follow the pipe work from each septic tank and/or soak well until it ends ensuring that there is no outlet to another soak well or leach drain. Soak wells and leach drains may be connected in series and in parallel.
3. Backfilling the holes left behind must with clean sand. It is also important that the sand be compacted to prevent any possible voids.

Where it is not practicable to completely remove the septic apparatus, the alternative option is to completely break the base of the septic tanks and then back fill the entire system (septic tanks, soak wells/leach drains) with clean sand then compacted to prevent any possible voids. It is recommended, however that the septic system be completely removed particularly where there may be an intention to further develop a property.

Timeframe for decommission:

The Town of Bassendean recommends that once connection to sewer has been made, any septic system be decommissioned as soon as possible, as septic systems can collapse without warning. However, you are legally obligated to decommission the apparatus within 60 days of a change of use i.e. subdivision, or ownership of the premises, or where foundations for a building are to be built closer than 1.2m to a septic tank, 1.8m from a leach drain or where a building is proposed above an apparatus.

If you require more information, please contact the Town's Health Services on 9377 8000 during office hours.