

FAQs

How often does my septic tank need emptying?

An average household will usually need the septic tank emptied about twice a year. This will vary depending on usage, size of tank and if there are any unknown problems with the tank. It is important to have the septic tank emptied at the correct intervals, to avoid excessive build up of sludge.

How can I prolong the life of my septic tank?

Repair leaky fixtures and conserve water, the more water you put through your septic tank, the more water it must treat and quicker it may stop working. Avoid pouring grease, coffee grounds and similar materials down your kitchen drain. Also remember that some cleaning materials and solvents may cause damage to your system. Don't use your toilet and septic system as a rubbish bin, as this will add to the sludge build up and overload the bacteria in the septic tank.

How do I know if there is a problem with my septic tank?

There may be odours, persistent wet spots and/or lush green growth in any areas of your system.

The system may back up into the shower or bath.

Problems continue even when the septic tank has been recently pumped/cleaned .

What is a cesspool?

It is a privately owned sewerage system generally consisting of a pit underground where sewerage flows into and is stored, sometimes also known as a holding tank. It should be pumped empty on a regular basis to prevent overflowing and cause of spillages/pollution.

What is a septic tank?

It is an underground tank for wastewater and sewage from a private home. The bacteria in the sewage decompose the organic wastes, and the sludge settles to the bottom of the tank. The effluent flows out of the tank into the ground through drains.

What can go wrong with a septic tank or cesspool?

A septic tank or cesspool can overflow or may leak which is an offence under the 1936 Public Health Act. Also, if it pollutes a watercourse, the Environment Agency may take legal proceedings under the Water Resources Act 1991. If a septic tank or cesspool leaks a drainage engineer must be called out to remove the waste and clear up the sewage. The cause of the leak must be identified and remedied.

How do I avoid having problems?

For septic tanks: Avoid excessive usage of household detergents or bleaches; these upset the biological balance of the system. Do not overload the system by connecting rain or water drains to septic tanks or cesspools.

For cesspools: Check the level in the tank regularly, and do not let it overflow. Have it emptied at regular intervals: these will be required more frequently if you install a dishwasher for instance.

Got another question?

If you can't find the answers to your questions here, please contact us and we will be happy to help you.