

DECOMMISSIONING A SEPTIC APPARATUS

Decommissioning your Septic Apparatus

In order to decommission a septic apparatus the following must take place:

1. The septic apparatus is to be pumped out by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The contractor is to provide a receipt;
2. The apparatus is to be removed. All septic tanks, soak wells and leach drains must be accounted for and removed.

NOTE

Soak wells and leach drains may be connected in series and in parallel;

3. The holes must be backfilled with clean compacted sand; and
4. Notify the Council of the decommissioning works carried out by returning the attached form.

Where it is not practicable to completely remove the septic apparatus, an alternative is to back fill the entire system (septic tanks, soak wells/leach drains) as it remains in the ground, with clean compacted sand.

NOTE

1. The **base of the septic tanks must first be completely broken** to allow for proper drainage.
2. It is recommended that the septic apparatus be completely removed particularly where there is intention to further develop the property.

Notifying the Shire of Esperance

Upon decommissioning of the septic apparatus, the Shire of Esperance is to be notified in order to keep an accurate record of existing systems within the Shire. This will then prevent delays in processing future development applications and delays in settlement when it becomes time to sell the property.

Attached is a copy of the decommissioning form that must be filled out notifying the Shire of the decommissioning works. This form is to be filled out by the contractor/person who carried out the works and must indicate the number of septic tanks and soak wells and/or leach drains that were removed. This form is to be returned to the Shire of Esperance.

Timeframe for Decommissioning a Septic Apparatus

The Shire of Esperance recommends that once connection to sewer has been made, any septic system should be decommissioned as soon as practical, as septic systems can collapse without warning. Legally you must decommission the apparatus within 60 days of a change of use or ownership of the premises, or where foundations for a building are to be built closer than 1.2m to an apparatus or where a building is proposed above an apparatus.

For further information, please contact Development Services.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Shire of Esperance
Environmental Health Officer
PO Box 507
Esperance WA 6450

Facsimile 08 9071 0600

DECOMMISSIONING OF A SEPTIC APPARATUS

I, _____
(name of contractor)

of _____
(address)

hereby declare that the septic system previously installed on

Property Address

Lot No	Street No	Street
Locality		

was decommissioned on ___/___/___ in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 21 of the *Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974*, in that:

1. the apparatus was emptied in accordance with Regulation 46 of the abovementioned <i>Regulations</i> , and the provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection (Liquid Waste) Regulations 1996</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. the apparatus: (a) in the case of the septic tanks or aerobic treatment units, had the base of the tank broken and/or was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backfilled in situ <input type="checkbox"/> • Removed <input type="checkbox"/> • Broken up and backfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Total number of tanks decommissioned _____	
(b) the soak wells or leach drains were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backfilled in situ <input type="checkbox"/> • Removed <input type="checkbox"/> • Broken up and backfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Number of soak wells/leach drains decommissioned _____ and the resultant voids backfilled with clean sand and compacted.	



Signature of Contractor

Name of Contractor

Date