

Decommissioning a Septic Apparatus

Relevant to – Health Regulations (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste Regulations 1974)

Decommissioning a Septic Apparatus

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

- The septic apparatus is to be pumped out by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The contractor is to provide a receipt;
- The apparatus is decommissioned. All septic tanks soak wells and leach drains must be accounted for. **NOTE:** soak wells and leach drains may be connected in series and in parallel;
- If it is not practicable to remove septic tanks, leach drains or soak wells (i.e. if access is not available for machinery) the system can stay in situ once pumped out. The lids must be removed and the bottom of septic tanks broken up. The septic tank, leach drains or soak well must be back filled with clean fill e.g. yellow sand and then thoroughly compacted and
- The owner is to notify the Council of the decommissioning work carried out by submitting the form attached completed by the contractor/ person and including the pump out receipt.

Notifying the Shire of Esperance

Upon decommissioning of the septic apparatus, the Shire 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 comes time to sell the property.

On the reverse of this fact sheet is a copy of the decommissioning form that must be filled out notifying the Shire of the 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. The form is to be returned to the Shire.

Timeframe for decommissioning a septic system The Shire of Esperance recommends that once connection to sewer has been made, any septic system should be decommissioned as soon as practicable, 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 1.2 metres to an apparatus or where a building is proposed above an apparatus.

If you wish to carry out decommissioning works or you require more information, please contact an Environmental Health Officer.



TO: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
PO BOX 507
ESPERANCE WA 6450

FAX: (08) 9071 0600

DECOMMISSIONING OF A SEPTIC APPARATUS

I, _____
(Name of contractor)

of _____
(Address)

hereby declare that the septic system previously installed on Lot NO ____ House NO ____ Street Name _____
Suburb _____

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 Regulations, and the provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Liquid Waste) Regulations 1996* (pump out receipt from approved control waste carrier attached);

Note if it is not practicable to remove septic tanks, leach drains or soak wells (i.e. if access is not available for machinery) the system can stay in situ once pumped out. The lids must be removed and the bottom of septic tanks broken up. The septic tank, leach drains or soak well must be back filled with clean fill e .g. yellow sand and then thoroughly compacted.

2. The apparatus: in the case of the septic tanks or aerobic treatment units, had the base of the tank broken and/or was (circle one):

Backfilled in situ | Removed | Broken up and backfilled

Total number of tanks decommissioned _____ and

3. The soak wells or leach drains were (circle one):

Backfilled in situ | Removed | Broken up and backfilled

Number of soak wells/leach drains decommissioned _____ and the resultant voids backfilled with clean sand and compacted.

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)