

# How to apply for an on-site effluent disposal system

## Who should apply to install an Effluent Disposal System?

Applications can be made by:

Septic Tank Applications	Alternative Systems	Grey Water Systems
The plumber	Only the installer	The plumber
The builder		The builder
The installer		The installer
		The owner

## Before you apply, find out if your area is connected to sewage

If your property is located in Byford, there is a chance that reticulated sewage is available. Please contact the Water Corporation's Technical Advice Line on 13 13 95 for more information.

### Step 1: What Systems Are Permitted?

Determine what type of system is permitted to be installed on your property. Due to the existence of a number of sensitive environments and ecosystems within the Shire, many of the sub-divisions have specific requirements for on-site effluent disposal to protect the environment and water systems.

### Step 2: What Information Does The Shire Need?

Make sure you have the relevant information for your project. Complete an "Application to Construct or Install an Apparatus for the Treatment of Sewage". NB – Site Plans and Dwelling Floor Plans are required in addition to plans for building or planning applications. Plans to be no larger than A3. Fees are to be paid on submission of the application.

Dwellings/Sheds	
Two (2) copies of the Site Plan.	
Two (2) copies of the Dwelling Floor Plan.	
\$236.00 fees payable to Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.	

Ancillary Accommodation	
Three (3) copies of the Site Plan.	
Three (3) copies of the Dwelling Floor Plan.	
Three (3) copies of the existing dwelling floor plan.	
\$236.00 fees payable to Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.	
\$60.00 assessment fee - separate Cheque/Money Order made payable to Chief Health Officer. Alternatively you may pay by credit card - form available on request. (During Council's assessment of the application, a report is compiled and forwarded to the Department of Health with their assessment fee as indicated above.)	

## Contact Us

### Enquiries

Call: (08) 9526 1111

Fax: (08) 9525 5441

Email: [info@sjshire.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@sjshire.wa.gov.au)

### In Person

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)



[www.sjshire.wa.gov.au](http://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au)



<b>Connection to Existing System</b>	
Two (2) copies of the Site Plan	
Two (2) copies of the Dwelling Floor Plan	
Fees will depend on how you connect to your existing system. If additional septic tanks are needed, the full application fee of \$236.00 will be payable as a site inspection will be required. All other connections will require a fee of \$118.00.	

**NB:** These requirements relate to standard Septic System applications. Additional documentation is required for alternate treatment systems. Please consult with the system manufacturer to ensure that all documentation is submitted with your application. Effluent Disposal Applications are required for all new dwellings not on deep sewer and for many renovations and alterations to existing dwellings. In these instances, the application cannot be processed until a Building Application is received. If in doubt, please contact Health Services on 9526 1111.

### When Can I Use My Effluent System?

You cannot use/move into a residence until a final test has been completed by one of our Environmental Health Officers and a Permit to Use the system has been issued. This must be arranged prior to occupation of the dwelling. It is the responsibility of the installer of the effluent system (septic tank or ATU) to arrange for this inspection and permit. It is an offence to occupy a house/shed without prior approval (ie a Permit to Use issued by the Shire and a Temporary Accommodation Permit granted, where required).

<b>Prior to inspection, please ensure that:</b>	
Power is available and connected to the pump and alarm (if a pump and alarm have been installed).	
The tanks have been filled with water for at least 24 hours before inspection.	
The lids to the units have either been removed or opened.	
The pipe work into the tanks has been left exposed.	
All other conditions as specified on your approval have been completed.	

Failure to complete the above may incur a re-inspection fee of \$109.50 per hour including travel. Once the Apparatus has been inspected and passed, a Permit to Use will be issued to the Installer and a copy sent to the Owner.

## Methods

### 1. Conventional Septic Systems

Domestic systems consist of settlement tanks to remove solid wastes. The remaining liquid is then disposed of via two leach drains of predetermined lengths. Usage of the drains is adjusted via a diverter. The leach drains may be installed below ground or above ground (ie inverted) depending on the water table, clay or rock content of the ground. When leach drains are inverted a pump tank with a failure alarm is required in addition to the settlement tanks.

### 2. Alternative Systems

The Department of Health in Western Australia has approved a number of alternative treatment systems. Some are a variation of conventional septic systems while others are water recycling systems that allow you to reuse the waste water on your garden.

### 3. Grey Water Reuse Systems

Grey water is wastewater from the bathroom and laundry. The Department of Health has approved a number of "off the shelf" products that can be installed by licensed plumbers or installers. Alternatively you may design



your own grey water reuse system using Part 3 of the Department's "Code of Practice for the Reuse of Grey Water in Western Australia". The installation of grey water reuse systems is limited in this Shire to sandy sites that do not require nutrient retention on-site effluent disposal systems.

#### **4. Other Publications Available**

- Understanding Septic Tank Systems.
- Aerobic Treatment Units.