



Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Information Sheet

Household Sewerage Treatment Systems Sampling Program

As part of Fraser Coast Regional Council's commitment to protect public health, Council initiated an ongoing sampling program of all onsite domestic treatment plants that dispose of their final effluent aboveground.

The final effluent from an on-site treatment plant is a complex mixture and varies greatly due to the amount and type of waste that is placed in the system. All systems are designed however to cope with this variety and produce a final effluent that meets minimum guidelines.

In a single family house, the laundry and kitchen each account for about 10% of the wastewater volume, while the bathtub, shower and handbasins account for about 40%, and the toilets account for the remaining 40%. The organic chemical content of domestic sewage comes primarily from human wastes, soaps and food wastes (especially in homes where a garbage grinder is used).

Once treated, the systems final effluent is used on specifically designed garden and lawn areas, and is a valuable source of water to ensure the continued growth and vitality of these garden areas.

If domestic sewerage systems are working correctly, the effluent that is disposed of should not pose a bacteriological threat to public health. However, incorrectly working systems can produce a final effluent that contains a high bacterial load than can pose a threat to householders, their guests and neighbours. Even when systems are working correctly, the final effluent can still contain some types of contamination and contact should be avoided.

Fraser Coast Regional Council is responsible for ensuring all onsite sewerage facilities within the region comply with standards imposed by the relevant legislation. The sampling program assists Council in undertaking this duty, and if any samples are found that do not meet the minimum standards, contact will be made with the property owner to ensure that they take action to remedy the problem.

It must be stressed that the operation and maintenance of domestic Sewerage Treatment Plants is the responsibility of the property owner. Notwithstanding the sampling program that Council undertakes, a licensed service agent must be appointed to undertake routine servicing in line with regulatory authority approval conditions. Regular servicing of the facility is a normal procedure to ensure routine ongoing efficient operation occurs.

Do's and don'ts of household sewerage treatment plants

Do

- ✓ Maintain current service agreement with a licensed service agent
- ✓ Stay up to date with products suitable for use in your system
- ✓ Ensure that the disposal area complies with Council requirements
- ✓ Ensure clear access to your system
- ✓ Ensure effluent does not come into contact with people or animals

Don't

- ✗ Put hazardous chemicals, condoms, sanitary napkins, excess cooking oils, heavy duty bleaches, ammonia or anti-bacterial cleaners or any other products not septic safe into the house drains
- ✗ Allow any person other than the approved service agent to service or maintain your system
- ✗ Allow effluent to pond on the ground.

Contact Info:

Please direct any enquiries regarding your treatment plant effluent testing to Fraser Coast Regional Council's Plumbing Section by phone to 1300 794 929 or by email to: plumbing@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

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