



COASTAL

Wastewater Specialists

ABN: 69 164 584 369

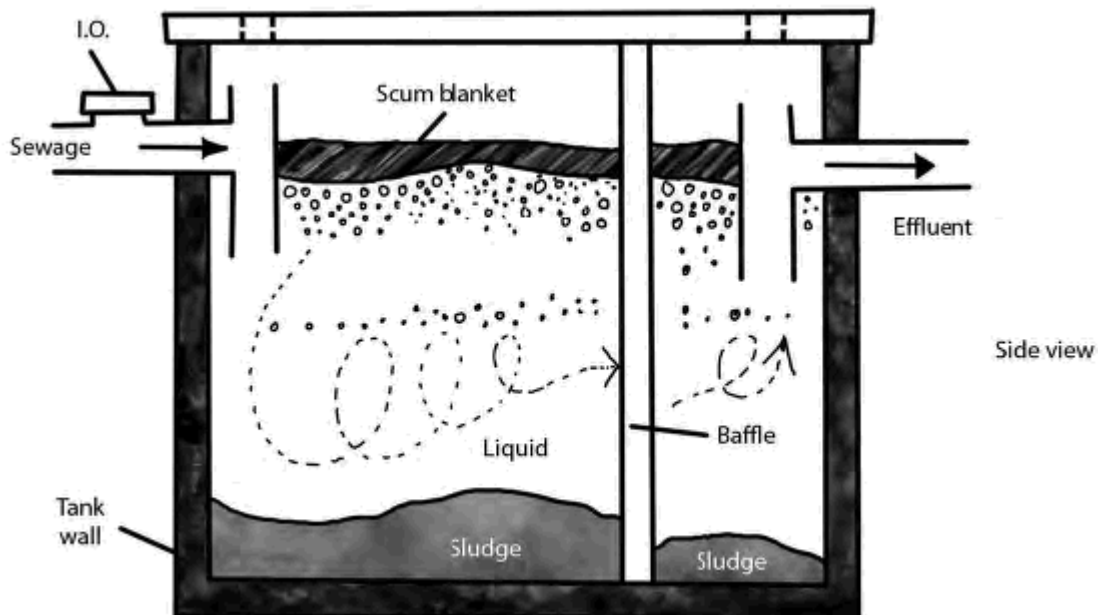
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De-Sludging Or “Pumping-Out” Your Wastewater Tank.

Firstly – A Basic Understanding Of How Your Wastewater Tank Works....

A septic tank must be filled with water before it is used and immediately following de-sludging/pumping out. The water helps start the treatment of the sewage by the bacteria and minimizes the risk of tank uplift (tank “popping” out of the ground).

Wastewater enters the septic tank from the left and flows below the scum layer that develops on the surface. The “T” piece ensures that the inflowing waste enters below the surface. The wastewater (liquid with solids) mixes with the liquid contents of the tank, the more dense particles settle to the bottom (sludge) and the lighter particles float to the surface (scum).



The material in the septic tank gets covered by a hard crust known as a **SCUM** blanket. This blanket acts as an air seal keeping air away from the sewerage. The lack of air helps in the breakdown of the sewerage by the bacteria (also known as anaerobic treatment) and reduces the escape of the dissolved (smelly/putrid) gases that are commonly produced in septic systems (ammonia, hydrogen sulphide (rotten egg gas), methane etc). Over years, the scum will accumulate to the point where, if allowed to continue, would be deep enough to overflow through the outlet.

The **SLUDGE** (heavier particles/solids) gather at the bottom of the tank/s. Eventually there will be too much sludge in the tank and it must be pumped out and the sludge disposed of correctly. If the sludge accumulates too much, it may be sucked out with the discharge. The primary tank is designed to limit the discharge to within reasonable limits.

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WE HAVE ASSESSED YOUR SLUDGE AND IT IS _____ mm DEEP.

WE RECOMMEND A PUMP OUT IN THE NEXT _____ MONTHS.

How often?

This varies depending on the rate of sludge and scum accumulation and the size of the tank. A broad general rule is every 3-7 years.

Common problems that may be caused by high sludge levels:

1. Sludge return blocked.
2. Air lines blocked.
3. Inlet pipe blocked (scum blanket too thick)
4. Inlet or outlet pipes blocked (accumulation of solid matter)
5. Toilets/Shower etc slow to drain (sludge too high – blocking inlet and taking up too much tank capacity).
6. Smell/odour (scum blanket disturbed due to sludge level being too high and wastewater not entering freely below the scum.)

Your wastewater serviceperson will advise that the sludge level is high and the tank requires pumping out. Sludge level should be measured at least once a year.

We can assist you with de-sludging/pumping out your septic tank.

Our service to you:

- ✓ Organise pump-out of the treatment plant.
- ✓ Attend onsite during the pump-out process.
- ✓ Ensure that inlet is cleared/unblocked.
- ✓ Ensure that outlet filter is cleaned/unblocked.
- ✓ Unblock sludge return.
- ✓ Blow out air lines with compressor (where necessary).
- ✓ Fill tank with load of water once pump-out is complete.
- ✓ Re-set alarms.

Price: \$1045 GST Free* (standard)

*Please note: Price may vary subject to location and situation/condition of tank/system.

Please contact Brett on 0400 497 166 should you have any questions.

To assist with the pump-out process the householder should consider the following:

1. Access/locked gates etc. Ensure clear access – move parked cars/trailers/boats etc that may be blocking access to the treatment tank.
2. Restrain pets and livestock. Keep the area in the vicinity of the treatment tank clear.
3. Keep children well away from the treatment tank and work area.
4. Refrain from using any water/fixtures while the pump-out is underway – no showers/laundry/toilet flushing etc.
5. Expect some smell during this process as the scum is broken and the sludge is removed. This will reduce once tank is filled with water but will not go completely until a new scum layer is formed. This may take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.

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Ph: 07 4128 8019

E: admin@cwsw.com.au