



Locating and exposing septic tank lids

Regular pumping out of sludge that accumulates within your septic tank is an important part of maintaining your wastewater pipes and Council's town effluent system.

Each property has a septic tank which breaks down the human waste before it enters the town effluent system. A septic tank that accumulates too much sludge can block the flow of wastewater from your toilet and shower and push unwanted sludge into the town system pipes.

Pump out schedule

Once in every four years Council provides a compulsory septic tank pump out service (known as desludging) to avoid ratepayers encountering wastewater problems on their property. This service is covered through the rates for properties connected to Council's town effluent system.

Exposing the septic tank lids

As part of the pump out service, property owners are required to locate and expose the lids of their septic tank. Sludge must be pumped out from the lid of the septic tank to ensure it is effectively removed. Pumping through the Inspection Point (IP)

is not effective as all chambers of the tank can not be accessed to remove the sludge.

Below is a diagram showing the different parts of a septic tank:



If you are unable to locate the lid of your septic tank, please contact Council as there may be plans available to help you.

If your septic tank lid is covered by pavers, under a driveway or buried, it will need to be exposed by the property owner at their own expense. It is a requirement under the SA Health Onsite Wastewater Code that septic tank lids are at ground level.



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Older style square septic tanks will have three rectangle lids, all of which will need to be exposed.

Septic Tank Riser

Below are examples of buried septic tank lids that require a concrete riser to ensure the lid is ground level and easy to locate:

Septic tank lids must not be buried under the ground



Lifting the lids

Council's contractor will lift and replace the lids of the septic tank as part of the desludge service. Often lids will become cracked due to tree roots and age, and also deteriorate if buried under dirt. If the lid is not in good condition it will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace as they can break when lifted by the contractor.

Septic tank lid ground level for maintenance and pumping out



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