



Locating and Exposing Septic Tank Lids

Pump out Schedule

Once 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 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 cannot be accessed to remove the sludge.

If your septic 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 Systems Code* that septic tank lids are at ground level.

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

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 built under the ground



Septic tank lid ground level for maintenance and pumping out

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.

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, age, and deteriorate if buried under dirt. If the lid is not in good condition, it will be the responsibility of the **owner** to replace as they can break when lifted by the contractor.