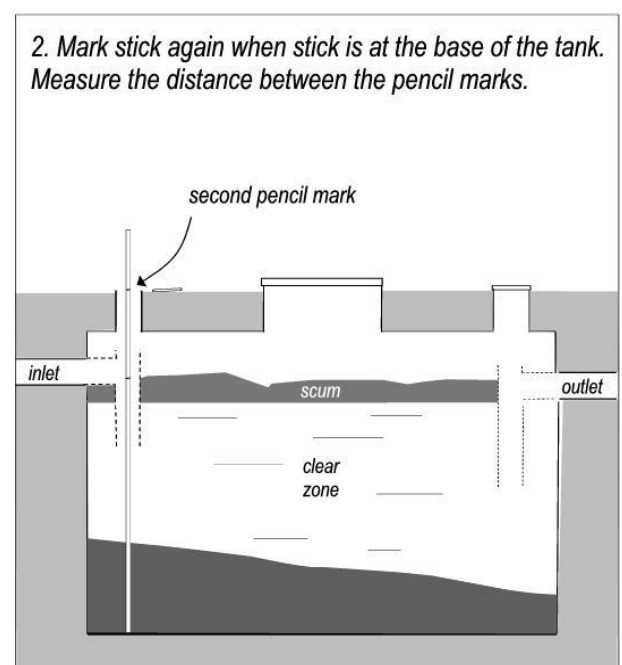
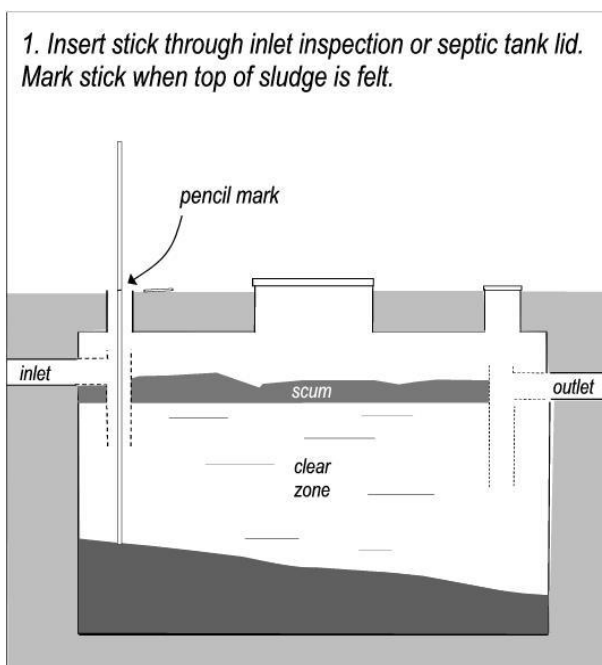


Management & Maintenance of your Septic Tank & AES System

1. **Ensure lids of the wastewater treatment system are readily accessible at all times;**
2. **Visually inspect the proprietary effluent filter if fitted;**
Clean, repair or replace as required
3. **Check you septic tank sludge level;**

This can be achieved by inserting a suitable stick into the inlet vent and measuring the level at which resistance is felt as the probe enters the bottom sludge, and again when it stops on the tank base.



4. **Pumping out the septic tank;**

If solids and scum layers combined are greater than one half the depth of the wastewater treatment tank. Pump-outs should be undertaken only when necessary as they disrupt the efficient working of the bacteria in the tank.

*As the outlet usually draws from halfway down the tank we recommend the more conservative $\frac{1}{2}$ the tank volume; some literature recommends pumping out when sludge occupies $\frac{2}{3}$ the volume of the tank

5. **Air Vent (Low Vent) at AES bed;**

It is the owner's responsibility to keep vegetation away from the low vent in order to maintain a free flow of air into the vent. Check low level air inlet vent at the AES bed is clear of vegetation and the insect screen inside the vent is clear. Check also that the high level vent at the dwelling is clear.

Water reduction fixtures

The daily wastewater flow has been calculated based on the following water reduction features remaining in place in the house. If any of these features are removed a new wastewater design may need to be completed.

- Dual flush (11/5.5 litre maximum flush volume) toilet/s
- Aerator taps
- Any shower head with a WELS 2 star rating or greater, or any combination of shower head and flow
- Restrictor that produces a flow of 12L/minute or less.
- Water conserving automatic washing mashine.

Indicators of system failure

In the unlikely event that the AES pipes become anaerobic due to a lack of oxygen, a system Rejuvenation will be required to return the system's bacteria to an aerobic state. Contact your AES Certified servicer if you detect the following: A foul odour, or pooling of water at ground level, or if System Sand around the pipes turns a darker colour.

Care of your Septic Tank Wastewater Disposal System

Maintenance of a septic tank system is important. The quantity of sludge in the base of the tank must not exceed 2/3 of the tank working volume. With care in not flushing insoluble material into the wastewater system this level of sludge may take some years to develop. Annual inspection of the level of sludge in the tank is recommended. This can be achieved by inserting a suitable stick into the inlet inspection/ access and measuring the level at which resistance is felt as the probe enters the bottom sludge.

Your wastewater disposal system depends for its satisfactory operation on providing a suitable environment for 2 types of bacteria to live and thrive – anaerobic (without oxygen) bacteria in the primary treatment aspect/ septic tank of your system and aerobic (with air or oxygen) in the secondary treatment aspect/ discharge to land of your system. You **must** consider the effects on this bacterial life when you are choosing cleaning and disinfecting products as all these products will kill the bacteria in your system.

Potential indicators of performance problems are odour, overflow and wet patches on the disposal field.

Below is a table of how to best operate a septic tank and things to avoid:

DO ✓	AVOID / DON'T ✗	NOTE
<p>Minimise Water Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install water saving fixtures • Use showers instead of baths • Spread laundry activities across the week • Fix any leaking taps/running toilets immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High organic loading wastewater production fixtures such as garbage grinders • Spa baths and multi-head showers • Ingress of groundwater into septic tank through cracks in the tank or fittings 	<p>Surges of wastewater should be avoided as they can stir up settled solids within the septic tank, reduce the quality of treated wastewater flowing to the disposal field and lead to the overloading of the disposal field – which can result in wastewater breakout at the ground surface and increased potential for adverse health and environmental effects.</p>
<p>Use bio-degradable soaps and cleaners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise use of strong toilet cleaners and bleach • Use phosphate free/ low phosphorous based laundry detergents • Use liquid based organic washing liquids in preference to sodium based washing powder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pouring toxic/strong chemicals down any drains e.g. paint, oil, grease, pesticides and bleach • Tipping chlorine or disinfectant products into wastewater system • Discarding pharmaceuticals down sink or toilet • Avoid washing powder with significant sodium content 	<p>Some soaps and cleaners contain chemicals that can kill the bacteria within the septic tank, greatly impairing treatment quality.</p> <p>Detergents with high sodium content can destroy the effectiveness of your disposal field by altering the composition of clays in the soil</p>
<p>Reduce Fats/Grease Inputs</p> <p>Scrape all plates and dishes to remove as much fat and grease as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharging oils/fats down the kitchen sink 	<p>Excess fats and grease in the septic tank can lead to filter blockages or impairment of the disposal field function.</p>
<p>Avoid discharging unnecessary solids to the septic tank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost any food scraps for use on the garden 	<p>Flushing any products down the toilet except toilet paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting coffee grinds down the sink – they add to the solids level and may affect the bacterial colonies living in the septic tank 	<p>The addition of unnecessary solids to the septic tank will result in the faster build up of sludge levels and the need for more frequent pumping out.</p>