

Septic tanks

A guide for residents

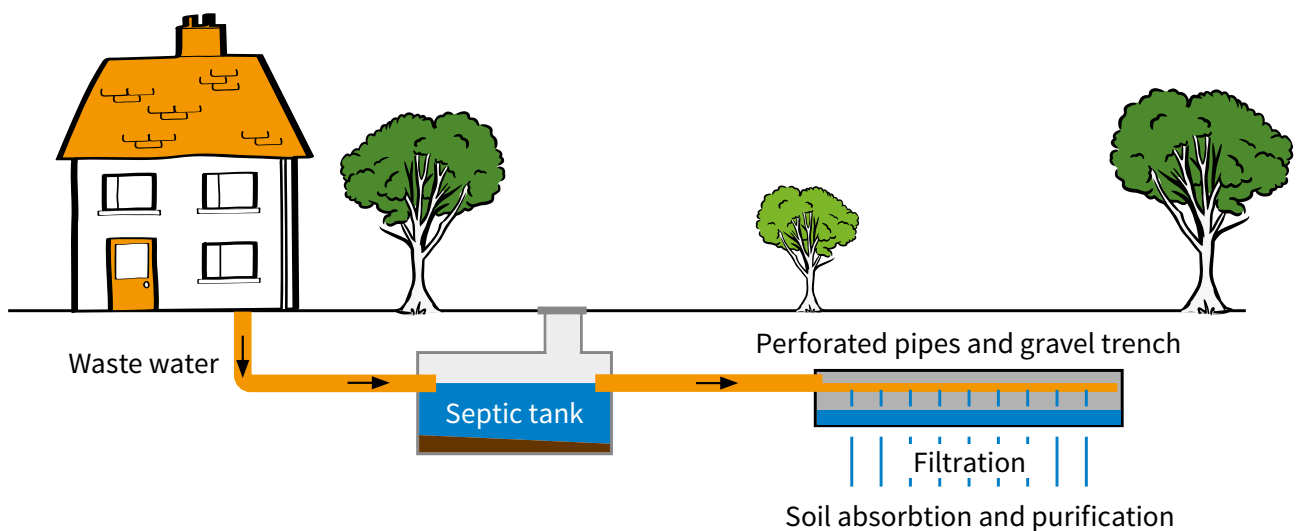
We want to make sure that your septic tank is working effectively and correctly at all times. Your toilet, sink, bath and basin are all connected to your septic tank, so it is really important that you know what you can/can't put down them to make sure it continues to work as it should.

We've put together this short guide to help you know how to use it correctly and what can/can't be put into the septic tanks.

What is a septic tank?

A septic tank is a large container that stores the sewage and water waste from your home. It separates the solid from the liquid waste. Microorganisms living in the tank break down the pollutants in the solid waste, whilst the liquid is filtered and cleaned. That treated wastewater is then released naturally back into the environment.

Septic tank



Did you know?

Pouring a bottle of bleach into the sewage system could kill off the microorganisms in your tank and prevent them from ever being able to recover, and making your septic tank unable to do its job.



What can't I dispose of down my toilet, sink, bath or basin?

Cleaning products, fluids and powders:

- 1 Bleach
- 2 Disinfectant
- 3 Floor cleaning products

Washing powders and other cleaning products, can cause damage to the microorganisms that break down the waste in your tank. This can lead to the process not being able to work and causing the tank and your drainage systems to become really smelly.

To prevent further issues or harm to the microorganisms, you should:

- Only use non-biological washing powders/fluids.
- Only use the minimum amount of products to carry out cleaning tasks as stated on the usage labels.
- Spread out when you do your washing over several days rather than all in one day.

Household items:

- Nappies
- Sanitary products
- Contraceptives
- Wet wipes (even if they say biodegradable/flushable)
- Make up wipes/cotton buds or pads
- Bandages, personal hygiene items or syringes
- Rags
- Plastic items, or anything containing plastics
- Soft toys, including tennis balls

Fats, grease, oils or fluids:

- Any cooking fat, grease or oil - either wait until they have turned solid or pour them into a container and place them in the bin
- High fat dairy products, eg. cream, milk etc.
- Alcoholic drinks, eg. beer, wine etc.
- Nail polish remover
- Mouth wash or neat self-cleaning products, eg. shower gels, anti-bacterial hand wash
- Baby disinfectants or bottle sterilising fluids
- Bleach, disinfectant or floor cleaning products
- Motoring fluids, eg. petrol, diesel, antifreeze etc.
- Photographic developing fluid
- Weed killers, insecticides, fungicides or other garden chemicals
- Paint, paint thinner, white spirit, creosote or turpentine

Please remember, **if you're in doubt** about whether you should dispose of something down your toilet, sink, bath or basin... **leave it out** and place it in the bin instead!

Did you know?

Even when a product is labelled as 'flushable' or 'biodegradable', they often do not fully degrade and can lead to blockages or cause big problems for the system and pricey repairs.

Wet wipes are the biggest cause for sewage system failures each year in the UK with 200,000 wipes being flushed daily!

Contact us:

Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk Telephone: 0300 1234 161

By letter, to **Cornwall Housing, Chy Trevail, Beacon Technology Park, Bodmin, PL31 2FR**

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