

# Septage disposal



## What is septage?

Septage or septic tank sludge is a by-product from the storage of household wastewater in a septic tank. The sludge accumulates over time and must be removed every four to six years.

Under the Health Act (1911) Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are responsible for the acceptance and disposal of septage and can charge ratepayers for this service. Septage must be disposed of in a dedicated disposal facility.

## Does Water Corporation accept septage?

Water Corporation **only** accepts septage under exceptional circumstances or if there is an emergency. Our wastewater treatment plants are designed, operated and licenced to treat **domestic wastewater** for disposal or reuse.

The composition of wastewater is very different to septic sludge, and the introduction of sludge can significantly impact the treatment process, or cause it to fail.

LGAs or other parties wishing to dispose of a small volume of septage at a Water Corporation facility **must** seek permission from the Corporation in advance. It is important **any** septage disposal to Water Corporation treatment plants is authorised. A suitable assessment has to be made and health and safety risks properly assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## What do I need to do?

If you are aware of any ongoing or unauthorised disposal to Water Corporation facilities, please advise us immediately on **13 13 75**.

Organisations currently involved in disposal of septage at a Water Corporation facility must contact **13 13 75** for authorisation prior to disposal.

## Other safe disposal options

Water Corporation recommends septage is disposed of in purpose-built facilities.

Facilities that accept septage must have a:

- Department Water and Environmental Regulation Licence
- Tanker receival facility
- Legal agreement with the tanker contractors.

For further information about your nearest approved septage facility, contact your Local Government Authority in the first instance.