

Fact Sheet - Disposal of Waste and Effluent

These guidelines have been developed to provide land owners and businesses with an understanding of the approval requirements for the disposal of liquid waste and effluent (wastewater) on unsewered commercial and industrial land.

This guidance document should be read in conjunction with the Western Australian Department of Health's information sheets;

- [Guidance on applying for approval to install a commercial onsite wastewater system](#)
- [Application to Construct or Install an Apparatus for the Treatment of Sewage](#)

Background

Wastewater is any liquid waste or effluent produced on premises and includes effluent from toilets, greywater from bathrooms and laundries, and washwater from washbays, washing of equipment or machinery, or contaminated water from any other commercial or industrial activities.

Wastewater must be carefully controlled and disposed of to prevent hydrocarbons, detergents, silt, pathogens and other contaminants entering the environment and/or presenting a risk to public health.

Local government is responsible for approving all onsite wastewater systems where the quantity of wastewater produced per day is less than 540 litres (or less than 5000L/day for greywater systems). Any applications for onsite wastewater systems producing over 540L (or 5000L/day of greywater) will be forwarded to the Department of Health along with a "Local Government Recommendation Report" for assessment/approval of the system.

What is required at the Application Stage?

If you are submitting a Development Application, please refer to the appropriate planning information sheet or contact a Planning Officer. The assessment and approval of wastewater disposal systems is undertaken separately to the Development Application assessment and approval process. It is normally undertaken in conjunction with the Building Application (where no Building Application is required, it is undertaken separately).

Applications for approval to install a wastewater system (an apparatus for the treatment of sewage) are assessed by the local government's Environmental Health Officers. When assessing any application, the issues Environmental Health Officers will examine include;

- 1) What activities are proposed and will these activities generate the production of wastewater?
- 2) What is the estimated quantity and quality of wastewater which will be produced onsite? (i.e. what contaminants will enter the waste streams from onsite activities?)

- 3) Has the applicant proposed to install a system that is adequate for the needs of the business? (is the system big enough, does it have adequate retention capacity, does it have a pre-treatment component, is there enough space on the land for the installation of the system?)
- 4) What are the specifications of the proposed system? (manufacturer details, servicing and maintenance requirements)
- 5) Will stormwater be protected from contamination by onsite activities and wastewater disposal?
- 6) Are there existing systems onsite and if there are what is the current quality and quantity of wastewater produced per day? Will these systems be suitable for the new operation?

It is important that the applicant submits all information required for the City of Wanneroo to assess the application.

The assessment will result in one of the following;

- a) a request for further information if required
- b) a recommendation that the application be approved, subject to conditions, or
- c) a recommendation that the system is inadequate and the application for approval be refused. (Note: where it is identified that an application has shortcomings, the City Of Wanneroo will work with the applicant to achieve a better solution however ultimately it is the applicant's responsibility to source and provide all required information).

Disposal of wastewater to sewer

If sewer is available within 91m of the property then any proposed wastewater systems must discharge to sewer. It is the responsibility of the property owner to gain approval from the Water Corporation to discharge wastewater to sewer.

Only when sewer is unavailable to the property and it can be demonstrated that proposed effluent systems are capable of adequately removing contaminants from wastewater will the local government approve of wastewater being disposed onsite.

Who to talk to for further Information

- To discuss wastewater treatment, disposal and application requirements contact one of the City's Environmental Health Officers on 9405 5000.
- If you would like to seek advice from the Department of Health directly for any wastewater systems handling over 540 litres per day contact the Department of Health Wastewater Unit on 08 93884999.
- For further information on Development Applications in general contact Approval Services on 9405 5487.

- For a list of approved wastewater systems visit the Department of Health website:

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Approved-wastewater-systems

References

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 as amended and the *Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974* (available www.slp.wa.gov.au)

Document links

Guidance on applying for approval to install a commercial onsite wastewater system

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Guidance-on-applying-for-approval-of-installation-of-a-commercial-onsite-wastewater-system

Application to Construct or Install an Apparatus for the Treatment of Sewage

http://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/downloads/download/202/effluent_and_septic_systems