

HOLDING TANKS

Holding tanks collect and store all household wastewater which is then periodically removed by a Council-approved liquid waste contractor and discharged at the local authority's sewerage treatment plant.

Holding tanks are usually installed due to one or more of the following site constraints:

- The allotment is too small for on-site treatment and application of resulting effluent.
- The soil on the allotment is very poor draining (clay, etc) and therefore not conducive to on-site treatment and application of resulting effluent.
- The soil on the allotment is free draining (sand, etc) and there is an underlying groundwater table that may be affected by the effluent.
- The allotment will be provided with a reticulated sewer system in the near future.

All household wastewater will usually pass through a septic tank before it enters the holding tank. In some instances you may have a split system where only the toilets pass through the septic tank before connecting with the greywater system flowing into the holding tank. Holding tanks can be plastic or concrete, usually 4500 litre capacity or larger and can be installed in multiples. Tanks are fitted with a visual high level alarm system and usually located in an open position or are fitted with a suction pump out point at the boundary for pump truck access.

MAINTENANCE

It is important for homeowners to ensure that the contents of their holding tank are regularly removed.

There are a number of factors that determine how frequently the tank needs to be pumped out such as:

- Size of tank
- Amount of water used
- Number of people living on the premises

These factors are considered when forming the agreement with Council to determine the frequency for having the tank pumped out from 7, 10, 14 or 28 days.

