


# Shire of East Pilbara Guidelines for Constructing or Installing an On-Site Waste Water Treatment System

## Submitting an Application and minimum requirements

1. Construction of the apparatus must be in accordance with the Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974 and any Conditions of Approval imposed by the Shire's Health Service. No person may alter or modify any approved plan, or installation, without the prior approval of the Shire's Health Service.
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2. Approval will not be given for the installation of an on-site waste water treatment system (other than an approved grey water treatment system) where sewer connection is available.
  3. The application must include two copies of a site plan showing the location of the buildings, finished floor levels, boundaries, contours, contour levels and preferred location of the proposed system (please refer to the sample plan on page 4). It should be an appropriate scale such as 1:100 or 1:200. Details of the soil types (*e.g. Sandy, loam, gravel etc.*) **as well as the expected daily waste water volume must be indicated on the application form, together with the intended use of the development and the distance of the nearest surface water body as well as the depth of the water table.**
  4. The applicable Local Government fees for the entire application process are set at \$336. An additional \$35 fee shall be paid to the Department of Health if the total waste water volume exceeds 540 litres per day. Please contact the Shire of East Pilbara office for available payment options.
  5. All material, pipes, bends, junctions, fittings, and fixtures shall be sound and free from defects, of a trade finish and installed in accordance with Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000. In addition an approved mosquito-proof cowl is required to all educt vents.
  6. Leach drains and other effluent disposal systems must not be installed closer than 1.8m to any building foundations, footings or boundary fences, and septic tanks or aerobic treatment units may not be constructed closer than 1.2m to any building foundations, footings or boundary fences. No structure may be erected over any waste water treatment system.
  7. The top (lid) of septic tanks and leach drains shall be no more that 300mm below the finished ground level. For gravity systems applicants must ensure there is sufficient fall without the need to exceed the maximum depth.

8. Liquid Capacity of Septic Tanks on residential premises

<b>Type of Tank</b>	<b>Number of Bedrooms</b>	<b>Liquid Capacity (<i>litres</i>)</b>
Septic tank serving water closets and urinal only	5 or less	1820
	More than 5	1360 plus 90 litres per bedroom
Septic tank treating all wastes	5 or less	3180
	More than 5	1820 plus 270 litres per bedroom

9. Size of septic tanks on other premises

The sizes of septic tanks, other than septic tanks on residential premises shall be calculated on a basis of 1360 litres for a blackwater system and 1820 litres for a combined system plus the number of litres per person shown in the following table;

<b>Type of premises</b>	<b>Blackwater system (<i>litres</i>)</b>	<b>Combined system (<i>litres</i>)</b>
Hotel	90	180
Motel	70	140
School (boarding)	70	140
School(day)	30	45
Public building(frequent use)	15	30
Public building(Infrequent use)	5	10
Caravan park	90	140
Swimming pool	10	15
Drive-in-theatres(2 persons/car)	10	10
Factories and shops(based on the number of persons therein on any 8 hour shift). <b><i>NB This volume needs to be adjusted accordingly with an extended work shift</i></b>	45	70
Construction camps (temporary)	25	45
Clubs	10	15
Clubs(licensed)	25	35

10. Septic tanks on hospitals, nursing homes and similar establishments

The sizes of septic tanks to be used in hospitals, nursing homes and similar establishments shall be as required by the Department of Health (WA), provided that no blackwater system shall be of less than 1820 litres capacity and no combined system shall be of less than 3180 litres capacity.

11. Minimum air space in septic tank

A septic tank shall have a minimum airspace between water level and underside of cover of 380mm vertically

12. Leach drain sizes shall be determined by the following formula:

$\frac{\text{Total Waste Water Volume}}{\text{Infiltrative rate of the soil as determined by the regulations}}$
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The Infiltrative Rate of soils is as shown below

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Infiltrative Rate</b>
Sandy	30
Loam/Gravel	20
Clay	4.5

13. Effluent must not be disposed of within 30 metres of any well, creek or any source of water or within 6 metres of a sub soil drainage system or open drainage channel. All storm water shall be diverted to prevent entry to the waste water treatment system and effluent disposal area.
14. Large volumes of disinfectants or other chemicals into the waste water treatment system may kill the bacteria required for treatment and adversely affect the system's operation. Detergents in small quantities should not affect the efficiency of the waste water treatment system.
15. A waste water treatment system must not be used until it has been tested and a "Permit to Use Apparatus" has been issued by an Environmental Health Officer.

**Further information can be obtained from the Shire of East Pilbara's Development Services-Health unit on (08) 91758000.**

# Sample Plan

