

# Catalyst Environment and Education Services Pty Ltd

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## HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Your onsite sewage or wastewater treatment system if properly used and maintained can safely recycle all your household wastewater for use on your lawn or garden beds.

### WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

To ensure your treatment system operates safely and effectively there are a few key Do's and Don'ts.

### DO'S

- Use cleaning and laundry products labeled safe for wastewater treatment systems.
- Ensure you have the treatment system serviced regularly (usually every three months) by us. This will help prevent breakdowns and problems with the system. Your local shire council requires that your system is serviced by an approved service person.
- Make sure treated water from your system stays on your property, don't allow it to runoff into the street or onto your neighbours property. You can be fined for not complying. The table below gives separation distances for *sprayed* treated water, that is, how far your wastewater sprinklers must be from, for example, your house or fence line.

If your system distributes the treated water underground or under mulch then it can be closer to your dwelling than indicated below. Contact your local Council or authorised service person for details.

<b>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SEPARATION DISTANCES (Sprinklers Must Be Comply With The Following)</b>	
<b>Type of Area, Feature or Activity</b>	<b>Minimum Separation Distance</b>
Bank of permanent water course (eg river, lake or stream)	30 metres
Farm dams, intermittent water course, drainage channels	30 metres
A bore or well used for domestic water supply	30 metres
Property boundaries, paths, walkways	4 metres when lower than the sprinklers, 2 metres when higher
House, dwelling, children's play areas	15 metres
Water edge of swimming pool	6 metres

## **DON'TS**

- Don't use fine droplet or mist sprays on your irrigation line, the fine spray can be carried a long way by the wind.
- Don't allow surface water to flood the tank system or wastewater disposal area.
- Don't use bleaches or strong disinfectants, or large amounts of natural antibacterials such as eucalyptus oil. Your treatment system relies on beneficial bacteria to treat the waste water. Bleaches and other strong disinfectants can kill off these helpful bacteria, seriously reducing the system's effectiveness.
- Don't put cooking fat or oils down the sink.
- Don't wash paint brushes or pour other chemicals in the sink.
- Don't allow the treated water to come in contact with people or animals.
- Don't use the treated water on your vegetable garden.
- Don't pour Napisan or other soakers down the drain, soak clothes in a bucket and empty the bucket out on the grass instead.
- After mopping the floor, don't pour the bucket of water (with Pine O Clean or other disinfectant/cleaner), down the drain. Empty the bucket out on the grass instead.
- Don't use 'Toilet Blue' or toilet deodorisers that hang in the bowl. These add a continual low dose of disinfectant to the system.

## **WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?**

If the alarm light(s) is active, there is a bad smell or the tanks are overflowing contact your authorised service person immediately.