

ON SITE EFFLUENT DISPOSAL IN THE SHIRE OF CAPEL

Info Note HA01 – Effluent Disposal

METHODS

1. SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Domestic systems consist of two tanks, 1500mm and 1200mm in diameter. Two leach drains of predetermined lengths with a diversion divide to enable alternation of the drains. Leach drains may be in ground or out of ground (inverted) depending on water table, clay or rock content in the disposal area. These systems are not permitted in a small section of Peppermint Grove and Albury Farm in Boyanup.

2. ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

The Health Department of Western Australia has approved a number of systems of sewerage disposal for areas where deep sewer is not available, and where the soil conditions preclude the use of a normal domestic system.

a. *Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU)*

These units are miniature sewage treatment plants in your backyard but basically they have an anaerobic section, a clarification chamber and a disinfection pump out section. The effluent produced passes out through a chlorinator (disinfector) and can be irrigated onto a designated area of trees or shrubs.

Four brand names have been approved: BIOMAX, CLEARWATER 90, BIOCYCLE and AQUARIUS (Western Wastewater).

The Biomax, Biocycle and Clearwater systems may require the addition of Amended soil in some locations to control nutrient output.

The Aquarius system removes nutrients within the system and does not require Amended soil.

These systems require an ongoing maintenance program every three months.

b. *Amended Soil Septic System*

This system is similar to a conventional Septic Tank Leach Drain System except that the leach drains are contained in a cell of amended soil (which removes nutrients) which in turn is contained within a plastic or PVC liner which separates the effluent from groundwater until treated. This system enables the leach drains to be placed closer to the highest known ground water than a conventional system. The two systems of this type approved to date are ECOMAX and FILTREX.

c. *Composting Systems*

Composting system receive toilet wastes only (separate systems required for kitchen/bathroom/laundry wastes) the waste falls into a container and through time is decomposed into a humus which is buried or disposed of in another approved manner. These systems may be approved in certain circumstances.

