

Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) Information

What is an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System?

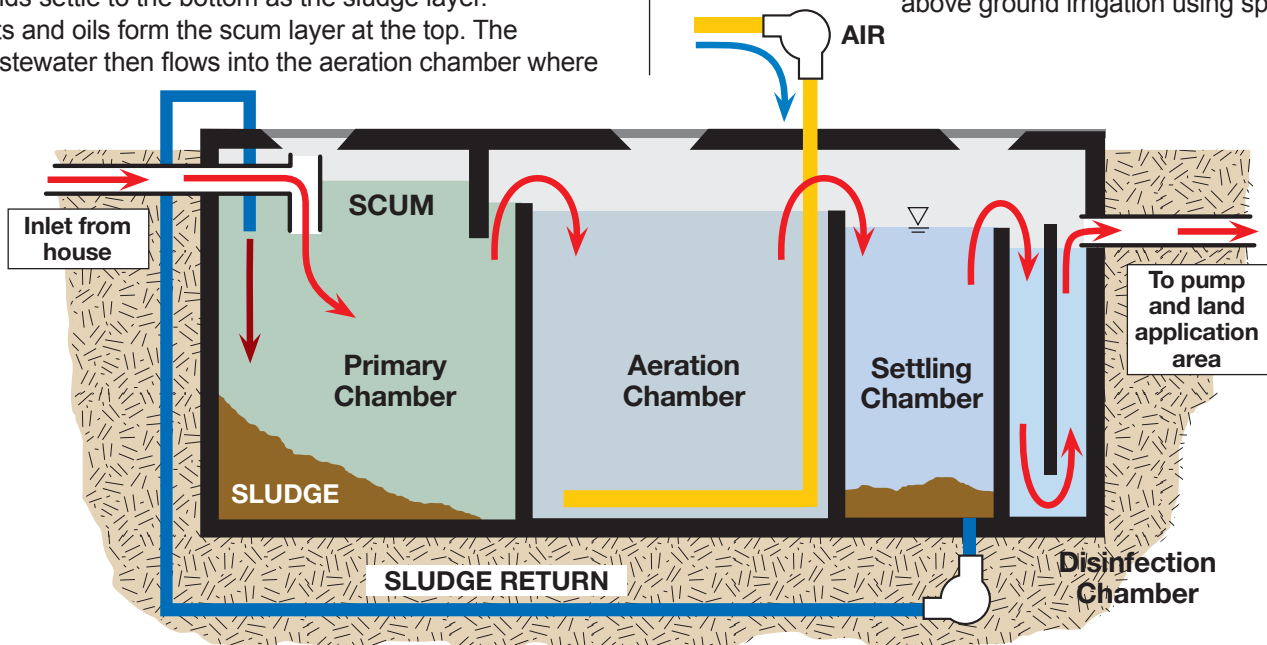
An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) is a purpose built system used for the treatment of wastewater for people living in unsewered areas. Some of the AWTS brands include *Taylex*, *Earthsafe* and *Ozzie Kleen*.

How does an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System work?

1. The wastewater enters the primary chamber and the solids settle to the bottom as the sludge layer.
2. Fats and oils form the scum layer at the top. The wastewater then flows into the aeration chamber where

it is mixed with air, from a small compressor (usually located on top of the tank), to provide oxygen to bacteria which further treats the waste water.

3. The settling chamber then allows additional clarification through the settling of solids, which are returned to the primary chamber for further treatment through a sludge return pump.
4. The clarified effluent is disinfected in the final chamber, most commonly by chlorination.
5. The disinfected effluent is then pumped to the land application area which is either a sub surface irrigation or above ground irrigation using sprinklers.



Looking after your AWTS

- ✓ Learn where your AWTS is located, how your AWTS works and understand its maintenance requirements.
- ✓ Have your AWTS inspected and serviced four times a year by an approved service provider.
- ✓ Have your grease trap (if installed) cleaned out at least every two to three months
- ✓ Keep a record of pump outs, inspections and other maintenance performed on your AWTS.
- ✓ Check household products for suitability for use with an aerated system. Use biodegradable liquid detergents such as concentrates with low sodium and phosphorus levels
- ✓ Conserve water as this will reduce the amount of wastewater that is created that requires treatment.
- ✗ Avoid putting bleaches, disinfectants, whiteners, nappy soakers and spot removers in large quantities into your AWTS via the sink, washing machine or toilet
- ✗ Avoid allowing foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, condoms and other hygiene products to enter the system
- ✗ Avoid putting fats and oils down the drains.
- ✗ Don't switch off power to the AWTS, even if you are going on holidays

WARNING

**RECLAIMED EFFLUENT
IN THIS LOCATION
DO NOT DRINK
AVOID CONTACT**



For more information contact Tamworth Regional Council.
Phone (02) 6767 5555 or 1300 733 625 or
visit our website www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

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Your System Report

Ask your service agent to check and explain the following so you can understand how your system works:

- ✓ Have your system service include an assessment of sludge and scum levels in all tanks, and performance of irrigation areas.
- ✓ Have your disinfection chamber inspected and tested quarterly to ensure correct disinfection levels are being achieved.
- ✓ Service providers should be able to provide information explaining the operation of an AWTS.
- ✓ The service reports must be provided to Council.

Land Application Area

Treated waste water still contains harmful bacteria and therefore it is important to avoid contact with irrigated effluent. This can be done by:

1. Learning the location and layout of the land application area (irrigation area).
2. The area must be correctly sized to allow for effective disposal of treated effluent on your property.
3. The irrigation area should be maintained by mowing to keep grass short to allow for the growing grass to take up nutrients and use the water being applied.

4. Surface irrigation area should have:
Designated hoses and sprinklers which are used only for effluent dispersal.
Hoses and fittings should be purple in colour to indicate waste water hose ware. You should avoid using a conventional green garden hose.
Sprinklers to be maintained and replaced if damaged.
Sprinklers should be appropriate for use with waste water (not fine misting sprinklers).
5. Your disposal area must have a minimum of two warning signs in place for each wastewater treatment system. For example -1 sign located on the treatment system and 1 sign located in each of the nominated irrigation areas. (Signs are available from Council)
6. Don't allow children and pets to play on irrigation areas, especially while the area is being irrigated with the treated wastewater.
7. Treated waste water must not run on to or be sprayed onto fruit and vegetable gardens.
8. Keep livestock (horses, cattle, goats, sheep etc) out of the irrigation area while the area is being irrigated with the treated wastewater
9. Treated waste water must not run on to, or be sprayed onto neighbouring properties.

Council Officers are available to give you advice on your system and the options available to you.

If you have any comments or questions on any of the matters, please contact Council's Environmental Health Team.

Phone: (02) 6767 5555

Email: trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au