

## Frequency of Inspection

All on-site sewage management systems are required to be registered with Council. Each system will be assessed and once passed will be categorised into low, moderate or high risk.



Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Inspection required every 6 years	Inspection required every 4 years	Inspection required every 2 years

### Commercial Systems may be inspected annually

Inspection categories are allocated based on the type of system, the age of the system and any environmental and health risks associated with the site.

Upon a satisfactory inspection council will issue an approval to operate to the owner for the system. This approval will detail the renewal date and conditions for safe operation and maintenance of your system.

## Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart!

### ✓ Keep it Protected - Get it Inspected

Ensure that your Approval to Operate a sewage management system inspection is not overdue. Have your on-site sewage management system inspected by Council.

### ✓ Don't Strain your Drain

Use water efficiently to avoid overloading your system. Fix household leaks, run the dishwasher and clothes washer only on full loads, and consider installing high-efficiency fixtures.

### ✓ Think at the Sink

Don't pour grease, fats or harmful chemicals like paints and solvents down your sink. They can clog or harm your system.

### ✓ Don't put anything funny down your Dunny

Never allow any foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, personal items and other hygiene products to enter your system.

### ✓ Shield your Field

Care for your disposal area by only planting grass, not driving on or parking on it, keeping stock and other animals off it, and reducing roof and surface water drainage near the disposal area.



## Do Your Part - Be Septic Smart

For more information phone Camden Council on 4654 7777

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Do Your Part,  
Be Septic Smart!



A guide to  
Camden Councils  
Approval to Operate  
Inspection program

## Why is it important to have my on-site sewage management system inspected by Council?

A State Government survey of on-site sewage management (OSSM) systems in NSW showed that up to 70% of systems were experiencing some type of failure.

As a result the NSW State Government developed legislation which stipulates that every

OSSM system in NSW should be inspected to ensure it is not having an adverse impact on the health of people or the surrounding environment.

Camden Council estimates that there are over 3,000 on-site sewage management systems within the Camden Local Government Area.

## What should I do to prepare for my approval to operate inspection?

To prepare for your Council inspection please ensure that:

- ✓ Safe access is provided to the tank(s) and effluent disposal area.
- ✓ The area around the tanks and the effluent disposal area has been mowed.
- ✓ Dogs and any other animals or stock have been secured or locked up.

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the 'Approval to Operate' fee for?

The 'Approval to Operate' fee is a service charge that covers the initial inspection of your system and administration costs associated with the program. This fee is an annual fee and is included in your rates.

### If I own an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) and pay a service agent to service my system quarterly do I still need to have an inspection done by council?

Yes. At this point in time the Council inspection is one of the only quality control regulators of this industry. Service agents are not licenced or regulated by any Government body. Inspections are undertaken by Environmental Health Officers from council to check the adequacy of the system as a whole and to ensure that the system is not impacting on public health or the environment.

### What happens if my septic system is failing?

A Council officer will work closely with you to ensure that you understand why your system is failing and how to fix it. If your on-site sewage management system is failing Council may issue you with an Order under the Local Government Act 1993 or take alternative action to ensure that the problems with your system are rectified.

