

## EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF A HSTP WILL ENSURE YOU:

- ▶ Protect the environment from off-site impacts of nutrients and pathogens
- ▶ Protect the health of your family and pets
- ▶ Save annual maintenance and repair costs

A large number of properties in Caboolture Shire are not connected to the sewerage system. The treatment and disposal of all wastewater generated on these properties must occur within the allotment and must not create unhealthy conditions or cause a nuisance to the householders, neighbours or harm the environment.



## OTHER FACT SHEETS IN THIS SERIES:

- ▶ Issues Affecting our Catchments
- ▶ Council Caring for Catchments
- ▶ You Can Care for Catchments

## DO NOT USE YOUR HSTP SYSTEM TO DISPOSE OF:

- ▶ Hazardous chemicals
- ▶ Sanitary and contraceptive devices
- ▶ Excess cooking oils
- ▶ Heavy-duty bleaches, ammonia, antibacterial cleaners

Do not:

- ▶ Allow any person other than the approved agent to service or maintain your system
- ▶ Allow effluent to pond on the ground
- ▶ Use mist sprays on effluent spray lines
- ▶ Allow effluent to run off the property

Proper maintenance of your HSTP system will protect our catchments from environmental harm.



## COUNCIL PROGRAMS

Council continues to educate the community about management of our waterways through a range of programs such as Land for Wildlife, Urban Wildlife, Cities for Climate Protection™ and the Catchment Education program.



CABOOLTURE SHIRE COUNCIL

2 Hasking Street  
Caboolture Qld 4510  
PO Box 159  
Caboolture Qld 4510

Call Centre:

Telephone: (07) 54 200 100  
Facsimile: (07) 54 200 200

Email: [csc@caboolture.qld.gov.au](mailto:csc@caboolture.qld.gov.au)  
Website: [www.caboolture.qld.gov.au](http://www.caboolture.qld.gov.au)

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## CARE FOR OUR CATCHMENTS SERIES

# Home Sewage Treatment Plants (HSTPs)

**caboolture**  
... where lifestyle really counts

# Caboolture Catchments: Home Sewage Treatment Plants (HSTPs)

## HSTP FACTS

- ▶ Household Sewage Treatment Plants (HSTPs) are the most common form of treatment for household wastewater in the Shire
- ▶ The HSTP treats all household wastewater (includes the toilet or black water) to a standard set by the state government
- ▶ Treated water can be used on designated garden beds and lawn areas of the property
- ▶ The effluent quality from HSTP units is far superior to that of the conventional septic system
- ▶ HSTP systems provide the householder with the advantage of total wastewater re-use
- ▶ The effluent from a HSTP is of less concern to the environment due to the higher quality treatment of the wastewater

## Types of systems

There are several different types of HSTP systems. The most common are:

- ▶ Sand filter systems (bed or mound type)
- ▶ Aerated wastewater systems

## The process

The process used to treat the sewage depends on the type of system. The homeowner should contact the manufacturer to find out particulars of how their system works.



Aerated wastewater system

## THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF SYSTEM USES:

1. A septic break down (the same process as the standard septic system)
2. Followed by an aeration process (oxygen is introduced into a settling chamber)
3. Disinfection (usually chlorination) occurs

4. After disinfection, the treated water is then ready to be pumped to the designated disposal area

## Plan ahead when building

When building a new residence, plan for drainage, soil type, slope and future expansion. Also consider running and maintenance costs.

## Responsibilities

### HOME OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Contact the system manufacturer for specific information on service obligations and products suitable for use in this system
2. Ensure ease of access for servicing and monitoring
3. Make sure the system is maintained as required (usually every 3 months)
4. Ensure the irrigation/disposal area and setback distances are maintained as per approval
5. Divert all surface water away from system

### SERVICE AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your service agent is responsible for providing a detailed report within one month of each service. One copy will be sent to you, and another copy to Council. The report must contain:

- ▶ Sludge and scum levels
- ▶ Air blower size or operation
- ▶ Pump noise levels
- ▶ High-level alarm working status

### YOUR SERVICE AGENT SHOULD ALSO ENSURE:

- ▶ Disposal area complies with Council requirements
- ▶ Service tags are clearly marked and up to date
- ▶ Access to the system is secure
- ▶ Owners are provided product information
- ▶ Emergency service is provided within 24 hours

- ▶ Ensure no surface, subsurface or rainwater enters the system

## COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Approve the effluent disposal area and it's location
- ▶ Inspect new installations
- ▶ Approve servicing agents
- ▶ Maintain records of servicing (submitted by agents)
- ▶ Carry out routine independent monitoring inspections
- ▶ Forward records of numbers and locations of installations to the state government
- ▶ Advise the state government of problems in the operation of the HSTP
- ▶ Give advice to prospective home purchasers of the existence of a treatment plant on the premises and the responsibilities involved

## Maintain your HSTP system by:

- ▶ Maintaining a current service agreement with a licensed service agent
- ▶ Staying up to date with products suitable for use in your system
- ▶ Ensuring that the disposal area complies with Council requirements
- ▶ Contacting Council with any problems you encounter within the industry
- ▶ Keeping an area clear for access to your system
- ▶ Ensuring that the effluent is not exposed to people or animals
- ▶ Regularly maintaining the effluent disposal area
- ▶ Ensuring that effluent is only disposed of in an approved area



Surface irrigation using treated wastewater