



Colac Otway
SHIRE

Photo courtesy of Geelong Otway Tourism

Protect our environment

by maintaining and using your household waste water system responsibly

TIPS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

To maximise the operation of your waste water (septic or treatment plant) system and reduce the risk of negative environmental impacts:

- ✓ **Inspect your system at least once a year**
 - **Check septic tanks for odours, leaks (backflow) or flooding (wet spots, boggy ground).**
 - **Check treatment plants for odours, leaks (backflow), blocked sprayers/drippers and poor coverage of plants or mulch on transpiration beds.**
- ✓ **Fix any identified problems**
- ✓ **Have your septic tank pumped out by an accredited contractor at least once every three years.**
- ✓ **Have your treatment plants serviced by a suitably qualified person every three months.**
- ✓ **Avoid placing food scraps, oil, grease, nappies or feminine hygiene products into the waste system.**
- ✓ **Reduce the volume of water entering the system by installing water saving washing machines, dishwashers, shower heads and dual flush toilets.**
- ✓ **Avoid strong detergents, toilet cleaners and bleaches.**
- ✓ **If your house is rented out, provide written instructions to tenants about the waste water system. Encourage tenants to minimise water use, use environmentally friendly toiletries and avoid placing food scraps, oil, grease, nappies or feminine hygiene into the system.**

For more information regarding onsite systems and septic operation and maintenance, please contact Council's Environmental Health Department on (03) 03 5232 9429.

Protect our environment

Waste water from households in Wye River and Separation Creek is treated in onsite mini treatment plants or septic tank systems.

Please use household waste water systems responsibly.

TIPS FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS

Water escaping from waste water systems can damage our environment by:

- polluting our waterways
- affecting our health
- creating offensive odours
- increasing the risk of landslips

To maximise the operation of waste water (septic or treatment plant) systems at your holiday spot, and reduce the risk of negative environmental impacts:

- ✓ Avoid placing food scraps, oil, grease, nappies or feminine hygiene products into the toilet or down the drain.
- ✓ Reduce the volume of water entering the system where possible by minimising water use.
- ✓ Avoid strong detergents, toilet cleaners, bleaches and toiletries. Use biodegradable products where possible.

For more information regarding onsite systems and septic operation and maintenance, please contact Council's Environmental Health Department on (03) 03 5232 9429.