



Consenting requirements for fixing damaged wastewater system following the 14 November earthquake

If your wastewater system has been damaged, you will need to replace or fix it as soon as possible.

How can you tell if your wastewater system is damaged?

While it can be difficult to spot damage to a wastewater system as tanks and soakage lines are buried, the following may be evidence of a problem with your system:

- an unusually bad odour
- low water level in the septic tank (see diagram on final page)
- flooded septic tank
- water ponding at the surface near soakage lines or
- overflowing sewage at your house gully trap

Please note: there is no need to immediately stop using your sewage system unless you have overflowing sewage on your property.

Do you need to obtain a consent before fixing your wastewater system?

Installing or repairing a wastewater system sometimes requires both a building and resource consent. Building consents are obtained from the local council – Kaikoura District Council; while resource consents involving discharges to land are dealt with by the regional council – Environment Canterbury.

However if your repairs or replacement system meet certain conditions, you can carry them out without needing to obtain a building consent or resource consent. These conditions are listed overleaf.

Insurance companies require all wastewater systems to be repaired or rebuilt to the Building Code. If you do not require a building consent, the work still needs to be overseen by a registered professional.

Who can assist with wastewater system repairs or replacements?

A wastewater system designer/ installer can assist you in working out what kind of system you require. The wastewater system designers and installers listed can also assist you in identifying whether or not you will need a resource and/or building consent to carry out the work. They can also apply for your consent(s) on your behalf.

A list of wastewater system designers and installers is attached to this advice note.

How do you apply for consent?

You may also apply for the building or resource consent yourself. Application forms can be found at the following websites:

- Environment Canterbury - applications for resource consents can be found here: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=3016142>

Should you require assistance with the application process Environment Canterbury offer one hour of free pre application advice which can be utilised by calling customer services on 0800 324 636

- Kaikoura District Council – applications for building consents can be found here: <https://www.kaikoura.govt.nz/our-services/building-consents-and-information/>

Building consent is not required if your wastewater system meets the following condition

The repair or maintenance of the drainage system associated with a building is of comparable materials or for the complete replacement of the drainage system, provided that:

- (a) a comparable component or assembly is used; and
- (b) the replacement is in the same position.

Generally, a building consent is not required where you are replacing a septic tank or effluent field in a like-for-like situation. For example - replacing an old septic tank with a new septic tank of similar design and in the same location, or replacing an older style soak pit with a new soak pit in the same location.

A building consent would be required if you are installing a new septic tank and/or effluent field which is not similar to the original design. For example - moving from an older style septic tank and soak hole to a treatment style tank and dripper effluent field.

Should you require assistance, or have any additional questions, please contact Kaikoura District Council at 03 319 5026, or via email kdc@kaikoura.govt.nz

Resource consent is not required if your wastewater system meets the following conditions;

1. The discharge volume does not exceed 2 m³ per day; and
2. The discharge is onto or into a site that is equal to or greater than 4 hectares in area; and
3. The discharge is not located within an area where residential density exceeds 1.5 dwellings per hectare and the total population is greater than 1000 persons; and
4. The discharge is not onto or into land:
 - a) where there is an available sewerage network; or
 - b) that is contaminated or potentially contaminated; or
 - c) that is listed as an archaeological site; or
 - d) in circumstances where the discharge would enter any surface waterbody; or
 - e) within 20 m of any surface waterbody or the Coastal Marine Area; or
 - f) within 50 m of a bore used for water abstraction; or
 - g) within a Community Drinking-water Protection Zone as set out in Schedule 1; or
 - h) where there is, at any time, less than 1 m of vertical separation between the discharge point and groundwater; and
5. The treatment and disposal system is designed and installed in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1547:2012 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Management; and
6. The treatment and disposal system is operated and maintained in accordance with the system's design specification for maintenance or, if there is no design specification for maintenance, Section 6.3 of New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1547:2012 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Management; and
7. The discharge does not result in wastewater being visible on the ground surface; and
8. The discharge does not contain any hazardous substance.

Should you require assistance, or have any additional questions, please contact Environment Canterbury Customer Services at Freephone 0800324636 (0800 EC INFO) or via email at ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz.

List of wastewater system designers and installers

Company	Contact	Phone	Email
All About Sewage Ltd	Sarah Ratahi Stanfield	03 318 6577	sarah@allaboutsewage.co.nz
AJ Drainage	Andrew Snow	033195225 027 240 5634	
Drainage Consultancy and Design Ltd	Malcolm Linton	03 323 9394	Malcolm@drainageconsultancydesign.co.nz
ecoEng Ltd	Andrew Dakers	03 942 7954	Andrew@ecoeng.co.nz
Kiwi Pioneer Co Ltd	Mike Copeland	03 789 7709	Mike@kiwipioneer.co.nz
NaturalFlow South Ltd		03 323 8541	sales@naturalflowsouth.co.nz
Oasis Clearwater Environmental Systems		0800 627 472	office@oasisclearwater.co.nz
Smart Alliances Limited	Jeremy Harnett	03 319 3172	jeremy@smartalliances.co.nz
TM Consultants Limited	Marc Jensen	03 348 6066	marcj@tmco.co.nz
Whiterock Consulting Limited	Fiona Ambury	03 312 8830	Fiona@whiterockconsulting.co.nz

Diagram showing normal septic tank water level

