

# Aerobic Sand Filters Maintenance Checklist



Neglecting maintenance of a sand filter system may lead to failure, subsequently resulting in replacement of the system being required.

Check the septic tank every 6 months and if there are excessive solids present in the second chamber, it may be time to organise a pump out of the tank.

The 'Waste Control Systems, Standard for the Construction, Installation and Operation of Septic Tank Systems in South Australia' requires septic tanks to be pumped out every 4 years. Council recommends that septic tanks connected to sand filter systems be pumped out:

- Every 3 years if 3 or more people reside in the dwelling.
- Every 4 years if less than 3 people are residing in the dwelling.

It is recommended that to ensure proper care and maintenance of the sand filter system, the following actions are taken every 3 months:

- Lift the lid of the distribution sump and check for solids. If solids are present, this may indicate the septic tank requires pumping out.
- Inspect the area around, and the surface of the sand filter for signs of storm water runoff. If evidence exists, take immediate action to prevent storm water from entering the area of the sand filter.
- Ensure the surface of the sand filter is free from decaying vegetation or debris. Lawn is the best cover for a sand filter.

- Lift the lid of the irrigation chamber and check the level of the chlorine tablets. If the chlorine canister is empty it indicates that there wasn't enough replaced during the last service. It is important that chlorine is present at all times.
- Check that the level of water in the irrigation chamber is below the high level alarm float. This will indicate that the irrigation pump is operating correctly.
- Lift the alarm float to verify the activation of the alarm for high level.
- Check the irrigation line for damage and the irrigation area for dead plants and mulch levels. Repair and replace as required.

Take care when selecting cleaning products for use in the home as products that contain chlorine, bleach, anti-bacterials etc. will shorten the life of the sand filter.