



TO: Principal Environmental Health Officer
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DECOMMISSIONING OF A SEPTIC APPARATUS

I, _____
(Property Owner / Demolition Contractor)

of _____
(Address)

hereby declare that the septic system previously installed on

Lot No ____ House No ____ Street Name _____

Suburb _____

was decommissioned on ___/___/___ in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 21 of the *Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974*, in that;

1. the apparatus was emptied in accordance with Regulation 46 of the abovementioned Regulations, and the provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Liquid Waste) Regulations 1996* (attach certification from liquid salvage contractor);

2 the apparatus:

The septic tanks (or aerobic treatment unit), had the base of the tank broken and the tank was:

backfilled in situ removed

Total number of tanks decommissioned: _____

The leach drains were:

backfilled in situ removed broken-up and backfilled

Number of soak wells/leach drains decommissioned: _____

All remaining voids backfilled with clean sand and compacted.

Signed by the Property Owner / Demolition Contractor on this date ___/___/___

(print name)

(Signature)



DECOMMISSIONING A SEPTIC SYSTEM

Decommissioning your septic system:

In order to decommission a septic apparatus the following must take place:

1. The septic apparatus is to be first pumped out by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The contractor will then provide a receipt.
2. The apparatus can then be removed. To this regard, all septic tanks, soak wells and leach drains must be accounted for and removed. The most effective way to ensure that the entire system is removed is to follow the pipe work from each septic tank and/or soak well until it ends ensuring that there is no outlet to another soak well or leach drain. Soak wells and leach drains may be connected in series and in parallel.
3. The holes left behind must then be backfilled with clean sand. It is also important that the sand be compacted to prevent any possible voids.

Where it is not practicable to completely remove the septic apparatus, then an alternative option is to back fill the entire system (septic tanks, soak wells/leach drains) as it remains in the ground, with clean sand then compacted to prevent any possible voids. Please note that in this case, the base of the septic tanks must first be completely broken to allow proper drainage. However it is recommended that the septic system be completely removed particularly where there may be an intention to further develop a property. Please note: Alternate effluent disposal systems will need to be completely removed

Notifying the Shire of Dardanup:

Upon decommission of the septic apparatus, it is imperative that the Shire is notified in order to keep an accurate record of existing systems within the Shire. This will then prevent delays in processing future development applications and may also prevent delays in settlement when it becomes time to sell the property.

For your reference, on the reverse of this fact sheet, is a copy of the decommissioning form that must be filled out notifying the Shire of decommissioning works. This form is to be filled out by the contractor/person who carried out the works and must indicate the number of septic tanks and soak wells and/or leach drains that were removed. The form is to be returned to the Shire with a copy of the liquid waste receipt supplied by the liquid waste contractor as evidence of the pumping out of the system.

Timeframe for decommission:

The Shire of Dardanup recommends that once connection to sewer has been made, any septic system be decommissioned as soon as possible, as septic systems can collapse without warning. Legally however you must decommission the apparatus within 60 days of a change of use or ownership of the premises, or where foundations for a building are to be built closer than 1.2m to an apparatus or where a building is proposed above an apparatus.

If you wish to carry out decommissioning works or you require more information, please contact an Environmental Health Officer on (08) 9724 0000 during office hours.