

## WORKING TOWARDS SAFE & RESPONSIBLE ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SERIES

### WHAT IS AN ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

An OSMS treats wastewater from your home for disposal or reuse within your property boundaries. The most common types of OSMS used within the Snowy Monaro Regional Council area are:

- Septic tanks with absorption trenches, or
- Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) with irrigation areas.

### INTRODUCTION

This information will be of interest if you live on a property that is not connected to a reticulated sewage system. This fact sheet provides an introduction to on-site sewage management and to the Get SepticSmart project.

While people living in areas with reticulated sewage rarely think about what happens after they flush toilets, drain baths or empty kitchen sinks, people in un-sewered areas are responsible for treating and disposing of their own wastewater.

If your house is not connected to the sewer, you probably have an on-site sewage management system (OSMS) to treat the wastewater from your household. You will have an absorption trench or irrigation area to dispose of the treated wastewater (effluent). Effluent contains disease causing bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms and must not come into contact with humans or animals.

The Get SepticSmart Education Series aims to inform households and businesses who are not connected to a reticulated sewage facility about operating their OSMS in a safe, sustainable and responsible manner.

This series of factsheets will explain how an OSMS works and what you need to do to protect your family, your neighbours and the environment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.SNOWYMONARO.NSW.GOV.AU](http://WWW.SNOWYMONARO.NSW.GOV.AU)

### FACTSHEETS IN THE EDUCATION SERIES

1. Introduction
2. Septic Tank with Absorption Trench
3. Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS)
4. Why Should You Maintain your OSMS
5. Responsibilities of OSMS Owners
6. Problems with your OSMS
7. Dos and Don'ts of Operating OSMS
8. Approval to Operate OSMS
9. What to Expect When You're Inspected
10. Water Conservation Tips
11. Planting List
12. Common Terms Associated with OSMS
13. OSMS Record Sheet