

***Explanation.** Rule 3 applies to discharges of stormwater, and to the operation of specified network utilities if there are associated discharges to land. This rule does not apply to contaminants discharged into a pipe which discharges to water. These discharges are controlled by Rule 2 (because they breach Rule 1 (a)) unless the contaminants are “stormwater”, in which case they are controlled in Rules 2 and 3 of the Regional Freshwater Plan.*

The Council is informed of overflows from sewers, through breakage or during repair, about every two weeks. To date, the Council has not required any consents under Section 330A of the Act because the remediation is undertaken swiftly in accordance with requirements from the Medical Officer of Health.

Rule 4 Discharges of greywater

The discharge of greywater onto or into land is a **Permitted Activity** provided the discharge

- (a) does not exceed a maximum daily volume of 2000 litres;
- (b) is more than 20 metres from any surface water body, farm drain, water supply race, or the coastal marine area; and
- (c) does not cause ponding on, or runoff from the disposal area.

***Explanation.** This rule applies to greywater only, and does not apply to any discharge that contains human sewage. Greywater (see Section 3 of the Plan) is “the wastewater from sinks, basins, baths, showers and similar appliances, but not including any toilet wastes. Also known as sullage.”*

Rule 5 Pit latrines

The discharge into land of effluent from a pit latrine is a **Permitted Activity** provided

- (a) the latrine is located more than 20 metres from any surface water body, farm drain, water supply race, the coastal marine area, or bore, more than ten metres from the property boundary, and more than five metres from any dwelling on the same site;
- (b) surface water cannot drain into the latrine;
- (c) the water table is at least 1,000 mm below the bottom of the latrine;
- (d) the soil type does not comprise gravels, coarse/medium sands, scoria, fissured rock, or other such materials likely to permit free travel of excreta residues away from the vault chamber; and
- (e) waste in the latrine does not accumulate to closer than 300 mm of the ground surface.



Explanation. *This rule applies to discharges from pit latrines (also known as long-drops or privies). These toilet systems are commonly used in remote locations, or as temporary facilities where connection to a sewer is not possible. The design of any on-site sewage system is controlled by district councils under the Building Code (“G13.3.4 Where no sewer is available, an adequate on-site disposal system shall be provided for foul water . . .”). Also, where a sewer connection is available, the drainage connection shall be made to the sewer (see G13.3.3 of the Building Code).*

Permission may be required from the relevant district council in respect of the Building Regulations, 1992 or other legislation or bylaws administered by them. See, for example, the Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991 Part 8: Management and operation of effluent disposal systems. “Water body” is defined in the Act, and reproduced in the Interpretation in section 3.

Rule 6 Aerobically treated sewage discharged on-site

The discharge of aerobically composted sewage, or aerobically treated sewage effluent, onto or into land is a **Permitted Activity** provided

- (a) the discharge is more than 20 metres from any surface water body, farm drain, water supply race, or the coastal marine area;
- (b) the discharge is more than 5 metres from any neighbouring property boundary; and
- (c) for aerobically composted sewage
 - (i) the sewage originates from a composting toilet system;
 - (ii) the material has been subject to aerobic composting decomposition for at least 12 months from the last addition of raw sewage;
 - (iii) for at least 12 months **after** application, only people operating or maintaining the system have access to the disposal area; and
 - (iv) compost is not applied to any food crop for animal or human consumption; and
 - (v) the composted sewage is ploughed into the soil, or buried to a depth of up to 200 mm.
- (d) for aerobically treated sewage effluent onto land
 - (i) the application rate throughout the disposal area is not greater than 5 mm/day;
 - (ii) the maximum discharge does not exceed 2000 litres per day;
 - (iii) the carbonaceous five day Biochemical Oxygen Demand concentration in the effluent discharged from the system is not greater than 20 mg/litre;
 - (iv) the discharge does not cause ponding on or runoff from the disposal area;



- (v) the discharge is not by way of spray irrigation or other method that produces any aerosol discharge to air;
 - (vi) people (except persons involved with maintaining/managing the system) are prevented from entering the disposal area for a period of at least 48 hours following the last application of effluent; and
 - (vii) stock are prevented from entering the disposal area for a period of at least six months following the last application of effluent; and
 - (viii) there is no discharge of any effluent to a water body.
- (e) for aerobically treated sewage effluent into land
- (i) the application rate throughout the disposal area is not greater than 15 mm/day;
 - (ii) the maximum discharge does not exceed 2000 litres per day;
 - (iii) the discharge does not cause ponding on or runoff from the disposal area; and
 - (iv) there is no discharge of any effluent to a water body.

Explanation. *This rule allows discharges of well-treated sewage effluent and sewage compost **above** or **below** the soil surface. Note that Rule 7 of the Plan allows discharges of all sewage effluent (but not sewage sludge) subject to conditions, but does not allow discharges **above** the soil surface.*

Aerobically composted sewage may be applied onto land in accordance with this rule, but the sewage must not originate from any sewage treatment system other than a composting toilet system. That is, composted sewage from composting toilets, such as those in the Conservation Estate and Regional Parks, may be discharged to land in accordance with this rule, but composted sewage from community systems may not. The reasons for this distinction are given in section 8 of the Plan.

This Rule does not exempt sewage disposal systems from compliance with provisions in a district plan, or requirements imposed under the Building Act, 1991, or the Building Regulations, 1992, or the Health Act, 1956. Compliance with the conditions in this rule means that the discharge from the system can proceed without the need for a resource consent from the Regional Council. The onus will be on the owner of the system to demonstrate that the conditions in this rule will be met. Where the conditions cannot be met, a resource consent will be required in accordance with Rule 8.

The conditions for compliance with Rule 6 (d) are more restrictive than for Rule 6 (e) because sewage discharges onto land can allow transmission routes for disease to become established. The allowable application rate for discharges into land is higher than for discharges onto land. This is to recognise that there would be fewer adverse effects if effluent accumulates in the disposal field of subsurface systems.



Rule 7 On-site sewage treatment and disposal

The discharge into or onto land of any water or contaminants other than septage, from on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems is a **Permitted Activity** if

EITHER

- (1) the system is already in use at the time this Rule comes into force; and
- (2) the discharge does not exceed 1300 litres per day (calculated as a weekly average);

provided

- (a) the discharge shall consist only of contaminants normally associated with domestic sewage;
- (b) no stormwater shall be allowed to enter the system;
- (c) there shall be no direct discharge from the system to groundwater, surface water, or above the soil surface; and
- (d) the system shall be maintained on a regular basis.
- (e) the discharge is more than 50 metres from any surface water body, farm drain, or water supply race in any catchment being managed for water supply in the Regional Freshwater Plan (see Appendix 6 of the Regional Freshwater Plan); and
- (f) the discharge is more than 20 metres from any surface water body, farm drain, water supply race, or the coastal marine area in all other areas.

OR

- (3) the system is a new or upgraded system; and
- (4) the discharge does not exceed 1300 litres per day (calculated as a weekly average); and
- (5) the system shall be installed on the same property as the premises to which the system is connected; and
- (6) there shall be no direct discharge above the soil surface;

provided that conditions (a)-(f) above and the following conditions are complied with:

- (g) a site investigation shall be carried out. The matters to be addressed in a site investigation are set out in Appendix 5 of this Plan;
- (h) the system shall be designed, constructed and operated to meet the following performance criteria:
 - (i) the system shall be designed with **sufficient** effluent retention time to enable adequate treatment in relation to any constraints identified in the site investigation;



- (ii) the effluent shall be evenly distributed to the entire filtration surface of the disposal field;
- (iii) the bottom of the effluent disposal system shall be sufficiently above the groundwater at its highest level, in relation to any constraints identified in the site investigation, to prevent any contamination of groundwater;
- (iv) the area available for treatment shall be appropriate for the volume of the discharge and any constraints identified in the site investigation.

The Council will accept as compliance with criteria (h)(i)-(iv) an effluent treatment and disposal system designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with the principles and procedures outlined in Technical Publication No. 58 "On-Site Wastewater Disposal from Households and Institutions" (Second Edition, Auckland Regional Council, 1994).

Explanation. Rule 7 applies to discharges from on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems. These include septic tank/effluent disposal field systems, evapotranspiration systems, and community systems serving a number of houses. The on-site systems may be new (i.e., constructed after this Plan becomes operative) or existing systems, and may serve dwellings, institutions, workplaces, or clusters of dwellings, so long as the daily discharge volume is less than 1300 litres. This is equivalent to the amount of effluent produced by a large household.

This rule does not apply to septage (solid materials collected from septic tanks), or the compost from a composting toilet when discharged to land, or to systems designed to discharge above the soil surface (e.g., where effluent is used for irrigation) or to systems which are located on a separate legal property to that on which the premises creating the discharge. These activities are addressed by Rules 6, and 8.

The conditions relate to "good practice". The specific maintenance requirements which comprise "good practice" will vary depending on the type of system used and the volume and quality of effluent produced. All such requirements should be made available by the manufacturer or designer of the system at the time of installation. For example, regular desludging will be necessary to ensure that the system does not overflow.

New and upgraded systems (new systems are those installed after the date on which this plan became operative, and upgraded systems are those which were installed and in use before the Plan became operative, and subsequently require improvement to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse environmental effects being caused by the system) must also comply with the specified design criteria and be designed to reflect any constraints identified in the site investigation. Systems designed and installed in accordance with the principles and procedures outlined in the specified guidelines, are deemed to comply with these design criteria.

