

## Auckland Regional Council Technical Sheet I-3 ON-SITE WASTEWATER PACKAGE TREATMENT PLANTS. KEY MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

*Wastewater system owners are strongly encouraged to enter into a maintenance contract with the system supplier or other contractor experienced in wastewater treatment system operation and maintenance.*

*The minimum system maintenance requirements for the most basic on-site treatment and disposal systems include but are not limited to the following 3 monthly actions:*

- **REMOVE AND CLEAN** (hose down) the effluent outlet filters from the outlet of the septic tank and in the outlet from the treatment system or the following rising main. Ensure appropriate protective clothing is worn and the rinse water is discharged to ground, ideally densely vegetated where it will not run-off.
- **MEASURE THE SLUDGE DEPTH.** This can be done by removing septic tank lid/vent and poking a stick into the tank and noting the change in density of material at the liquid:sludge layer interface within the tank. If the layer is more than one third total tank depth (this equates to more than 0.7m from top of a 2m septic tank), the tank needs to be pumped out.
- **CHECK ALL ELECTRICAL PARTS.** In particular check and test that all visual and audible alarms for pump chamber and aerator blower are working.
- **CLEAR THE AERATOR** by lifting the aerator out of the septic tank and checking for any material that would cause drag. Clean the aerator by hosing it.
- **FLUSH ALL THE DISPOSAL LINES** if the system consists of pressure compensating drip irrigation lines, remove the flush valves and flush with fresh water from the hose, then reinstall the valves.
- **WALK OVER THE DISPOSAL AREA AND LOOK CLOSELY FOR ANY SIGNS OF FAILURE.** This can include uneven vegetative growth, uneven effluent distribution, any wet patches and/or signs of effluent ponding, or clogging or channelling of the soils. In the even any such problems are identified, contract the installer and/or a maintenance contractor to remedy the situation. Also consider measures to reduce water usage.