

Southern Wiltshire Area Board – 6 October 2011

Chairman's Announcements

FAQs - Registration of Septic Tanks

Since April 2010 all septic tanks need to be formally registered with the Environment Agency. For many properties this can be a straight forward process, is free, and only needs to be done once.

Discharges to rivers and streams must be registered immediately but those to ground may be registered at any time before 1 January 2012.

How do I know if my discharge is going to ground or surface water?

If your discharge is to ground then you should have a septic tank and an infiltration system (a soakaway) or a package sewage treatment plant (a PTP).

If it goes to surface water (such as a river, stream or estuary) it will be via a package sewage treatment plant (a PTP).

Can I register if my discharge to surface water is straight from a septic tank?

No. You will either need to apply for an environmental permit or install better treatment for the sewage. Better treatment could include installing a package sewage treatment plant.

What if I did not know anything about having to register my septic tank and have gone past the required date?

Please register as soon as possible.

Why do I need to register? My sewage system has been working fine for years.

New legislation (the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations, 2010) requires the Environment Agency to create a register of small sewage discharges.

What if I refuse to register?

You would be in breach of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR) and could risk action from the Environment Agency.

Do I have to pay to register?

No. There is no charge for registration.

What is the quickest way to register?

By registering online at the below address:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/132387.aspx>

The Environment Agency is aware that many people will find out about this requirement when they come to sell their house. We recommend the online registration system to all customers, especially those who need the fastest response they can provide.

Can I apply using a paper application?

Yes. You can download the paper application form at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/WQX001V02Aug10_e-form_Opt2_1.pdf

Alternatively you can request a paper application form by calling the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm).

Applying on paper will take more time than online registration, so if at all possible, please register online.

Who to Contact for further information

Please email to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or you can call on 03708 506 506.

Or contact the address below:

Environment Agency,
Quadrant 2,
99 Parkway Avenue,
Parkway Business Park,
Sheffield,
S9 4WF