

Foul Drainage Assessment Form

Have you considered the use of a sewer connection?

Other than in very exceptional circumstances the provision of non-mains drainage as part of your Planning or Building Regulation application will not be allowed if a public sewer is located within 30m or a connection can be made to a private sewer that connects with a public sewer. Permissions need to have been obtained either from owners of land over which the drainage will run or the owners of the private drain. For multiple dwellings this distance may extend up to 100m or further depending on the size of the development. Full written justification is required where it is proposed that mains connection is not possible due to reasons of location, cost and practicality.

Mains connection

	YES	NO
Have you attached written confirmation of the impracticality of mains connection with this form? <i>This should include a map showing the nearest mains connection point (check with your local sewerage undertaker).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

In order to establish whether non-mains drainage, either a new system or via an existing system, would be acceptable, your answers to the following questions will be taken into consideration. **It is important that you provide the correct information.** In some cases you will be required to provide a further assessment in accordance with the full requirements of Circular 03/99 (see Note 1).

Please estimate the total flow in litres per day for the new proposal (see Note 3).	360
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If the proposal is to utilise an existing system, please indicate below the current flow to the system.

Please estimate the total flow in litres per day for existing flows (see Note 3).	180
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Please provide a plan with dimensions that clearly shows the location of the whole system in relation to the proposed development and the position of the key elements e.g. septic tank, drainage fields and points of discharge.

1. Existing system

	YES	NO
Do you intend to utilise an existing non-mains foul drainage system?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, does the system already have a Consent to Discharge issued by the Environment Agency? (In the case of a cesspool write N/A)		

2. Discharge

	YES	NO
Do you propose to use a sealed system or cesspool? If yes go to Q6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you intend to have a system that discharges solely to watercourse (see Note 2)? No need for any further response.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alternatively, will all, or any part of, the discharge go to soakaway (see Note 2) - this would include systems that combine a soakaway with a high level overflow to watercourse? If yes go to Q3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Water abstraction

	YES	NO
Do you receive your water from the public mains supply?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Ground conditions

	YES	NO
Have you submitted a copy of the percolation test results with this form (see Note 4)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will the soakaway be located on artificially raised, made-up ground or ground likely to be contaminated? If yes please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the application site plus any available area for a soakaway less than 0.025 hectares (250m ²)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is any part of the system in land which is marshy, water logged or subject to flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Siting of drainage field/soakaway discharge from a septic tank or package treatment plant or other secondary treatment.

You may need to make local enquiries to get a full answer to these questions.

	YES	NO
Will it be at least 10m from a watercourse, permeable drain or land drain?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it be at least 50m from any point of abstraction from the ground for a drinking water supply (e.g. well, borehole or spring)? This includes your own or a neighbour's supply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any drainage fields/soakaways within 50m? This includes any foul drainage discharge system - other than the subject of this application - on either your own or a neighbour's property.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it be at least 15m from any building?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will there be any water supply pipes or underground services within the disposal system, Other than those required by the system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will there be any access roads, driveways or paved areas within the disposal area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Siting of treatment plant, septic tank or cesspool

	YES	NO
Is it at least 7m from the habitable part of a building?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will there be vehicular access for emptying within 30m?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can the plant, tank or cesspool be maintained or emptied without the contents being taken through a dwelling or place of work?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GUIDANCE NOTES:

- 1) This form is for use in conjunction with DETR Circular 03/99 (WO Circular 10/99) on 'Planning Requirements in Respect of the Use of Non-Mains Sewerage Incorporating Septic Tanks in New Development'. It is intended to help Local Planning Authorities establish basic information about your system and decide whether you need to submit a more detailed site assessment to show if your chosen method of disposing of foul water is acceptable. If detailed site assessment is requested but not submitted, your planning application might be refused.
- 2) You may require Consent to Discharge from the Environment Agency but please note that the granting of Planning Permission or Building Regulation approval does not guarantee the granting of a Consent to Discharge. It may take up to 4 months to obtain a Discharge Consent.

- 3) Typical flows

Property	Litres per person per day	Property	Litres per person per day
Domestic*	180	Offices	55
Hotels, B&Bs	200	Factories	65
Restaurants	25	Public Houses	15
Campsites	75	Caravans	120
Dayschool	50	Rest Homes	300
Boarding School	180	Hospitals	450

**Generally calculated on 1 person per bedroom + 0.5 person per household.*

- 4) You should refer to DTLR Building Regulations 2000 Section H2 Waste Water Treatment and Cesspools with regard to the general requirements for construction of non mains sewerage systems. Sections 1.33 to 1.38 deal with the test requirements for trial holes and percolation tests and for convenience the text of these sections is repeated below:

1.33 A trial hole should be dug to determine the position of the standing ground water table. The trial hole should be a minimum of 1m² in area and 2m deep, or a minimum of 1.5m below the invert of the proposed drainage field pipework. The ground water table should not rise to within 1m of the invert level of the proposed effluent distribution pipes. If the test is carried out in summer, the likely winter groundwater levels should be considered. A percolation test should then be carried out to assess the further suitability of the proposed area.

1.34 Percolation test method – A hole 300mm square should be excavated to a depth of 300mm below the proposed invert level of the effluent distribution pipe. Where deep drains are necessary the hole should conform to this shape at the bottom, but may be enlarged above the 300mm level to enable safe excavation to be carried out. Where deep excavations are necessary a modified test procedure may be adopted using a 300mm earth auger. Bore the test hole vertically to the appropriate depth taking care to remove all loose debris.

1.35 Fill the 300mm square section of the hole to a depth of at least 300mm with water and allow it to seep away overnight.

1.36 Next day, refill the test section with water to a depth of at least 300mm and observe the time, in seconds, for the water to seep away from 75% full to 25% full level (i.e. a depth of 150mm). Divide this time by 150mm. The answer gives the average time in seconds (V_p) required for the water to drop 1mm.

1.37 The test should be carried out at least three times with at least two trial holes. The average figure from the tests should be taken. The test should not be carried out during abnormal weather conditions such as heavy rain, severe frost or drought.

1.38 Drainage field disposal should only be used when percolation tests indicate average values of V_p of between 12 and 100 and the preliminary site assessment report and hole tests have been favourable. This minimum value ensures that untreated effluent cannot percolate too rapidly into groundwater. Where V_p is outside these limits effective treatment is unlikely to take place in a drainage field. However, provided that an alternative form of secondary treatment is provided to treat the effluent from the septic tanks, it may still be possible to discharge the treated effluent to a soakaway.