

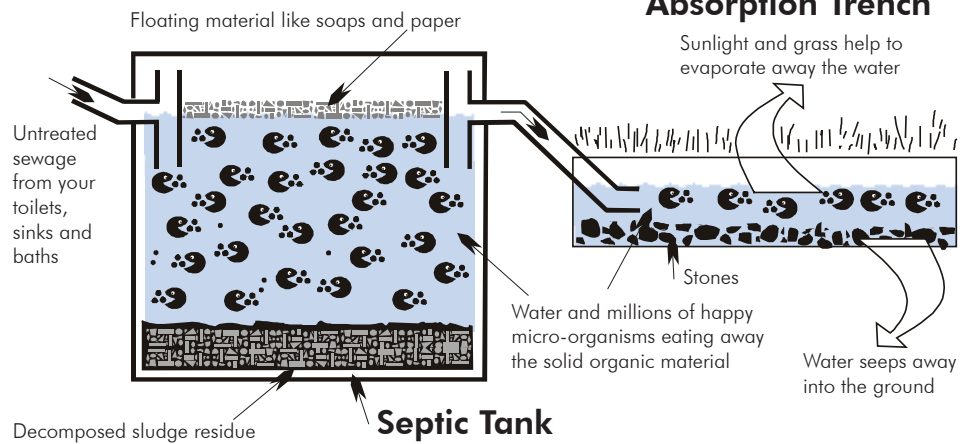
# Is a Septic System a healthy system?

## How it Works



Inside a healthy system, healthy micro organisms eat almost all of the organic solids flushed into your septic

Household waste water (sewage) flows into your septic tank where the solids and liquid separate. The solids are retained in the tank and the liquid flows out into an absorption trench or effluent collection wells.

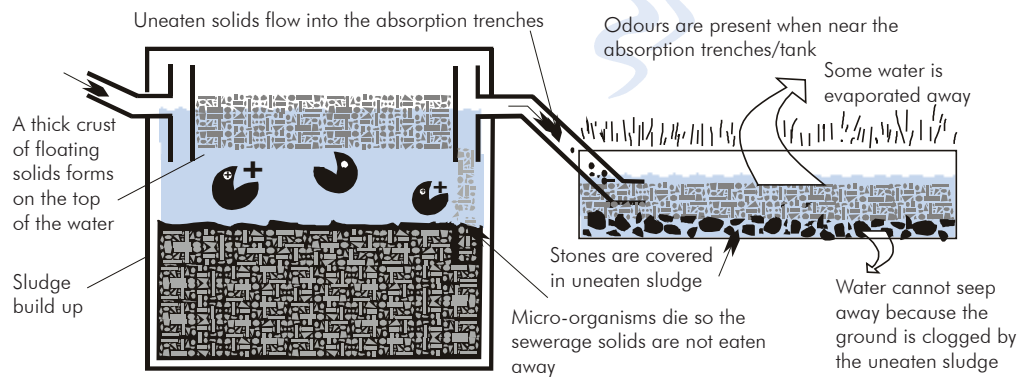


## Solids Build-Up



When septic tanks are not pumped out, solids build-up reducing the tanks capacity

With a reduced tank capacity due to crust and sludge build-up there is space for only a small number of micro-organisms resulting in a faster water flow through the tank. Raw sewage sludge is washed into the trench and the trench becomes clogged, or if you have a collection tank it fills quicker than it should do. Have your solids tank checked every 3 - 5 years. It may need pumping out.

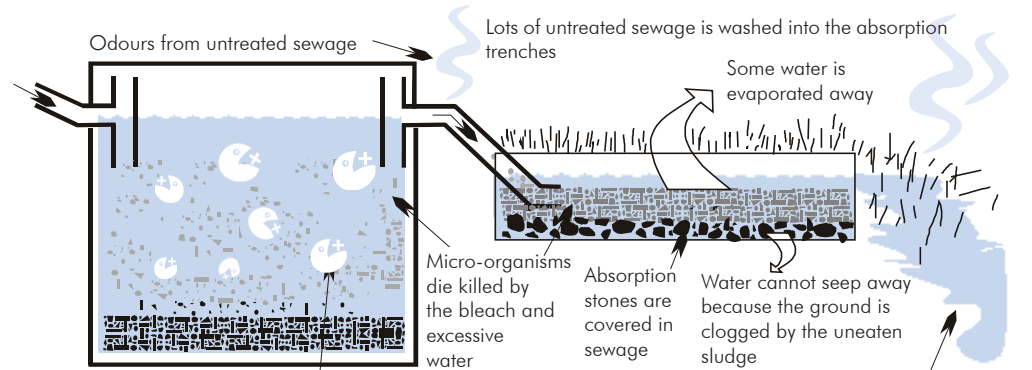


## Excessive Water Use



When too much water or bleach is put into your septic it kills the micro-organisms

A minimum of 24 hours retention time is required to avoid washing away micro-organisms. When excessive water from automatic washing machines and dishwashers is pumped into the system, the micro-organisms die and sewage sludge flows into your trenches or effluent tank. The solution is to divert some of the grey water from washing machines and showers onto gardens.



Excessive use of household cleaners such as bleach kill micro-organisms and cause ponding

If excess water causes ponding and odours at the end of your trenches YOU HAVE A PROBLEM. This untreated effluent carries diseases and is a serious health risk.

**Shoalhaven Water will be happy to assist you with any enquiries  
– Please call – 4429 3214**