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# *If You Have A Septic Tank This Affects You!*

## **Registration of Septic Tanks with the Environment Agency**

**Does your house drain to a septic tank? If so, the law now requires you to register your septic tank with the Environment Agency by 1st January 2012.**

Even if you have used the septic tank for many years it still has to be registered.

The Environment Agency has recently decided that all domestic sewage treatment systems including septic tanks or private sewage treatment plants that discharge into the environment must be registered. Many systems have formal consents or permits from the Environment Agency and owners of those systems can rest easy because they need take no action. However, most systems do not have formal permission or consent and must now be registered.

The Environment Agency do not charge a registration fee, provided that the septic tank drains to ground, serves only a domestic property and produces less than 2 cubic metres of discharge a day to ground or less than 5 cubic metres to surface water, is all that is required. A four bedroom house is estimated to produce just over 1 cubic metre of discharge a day, so most houses will be easily within the registration limits.

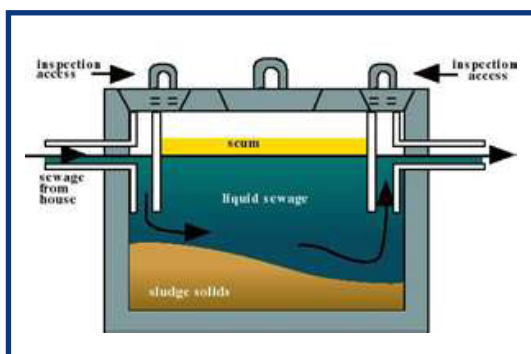
Discharges to rivers or streams must be registered immediately. Cess pits, provided they do not have any discharge, do not have to be registered.

If your septic tank is discharging straight to ground water, you have until 1st January 2012 to register but don't leave it to the last minute or you could be prosecuted.

**If you already have a septic tank with a permit, you do not need to do anything.**

**BUT**

**If you already have a septic tank without a permit or are installing a new one, you need to register.**



The official guidance from the Environment Agency is 7 pages long, the application form is 5 pages and you need proper plans. If all this sounds like too much trouble let us help. We promise there will be no big legal bill to settle!

Battens have 300 years of experience in helping local people with their problems and in finding solutions that make sense.

**Let our expert, Phil Crowther, help with your application and give you the peace of mind of knowing that your application is in good hands. We'll take the details, prepare the application, send it to you to check, pass it on to the**

**Environment Agency and tell you when its been registered, all for £90 inclusive of VAT.**

**Contact Phil Crowther, Planning & Environment Team, Battens Solicitors Limited on 01935 846065 or email [p.crowther@battens.co.uk](mailto:p.crowther@battens.co.uk)**

Mansion House  
Princes Street  
**Yeovil**  
BA20 1EP  
Tel: (01935) 846000  
Fax: (01935) 846001

The Bank House  
Long Street  
**Sherborne**  
DT9 3BU  
Tel: (01935) 814811  
Fax: (01935) 816436

Savernake House  
42 High West Street  
**Dorchester**  
DT1 1UU  
Tel: (01305) 250560  
Fax: (01305) 260876

26 St. Thomas Street  
**Weymouth**  
DT4 8EJ  
Tel: (01305) 774666  
Fax: (01305) 760423