District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

Septic Tank Risers

Septic risers are an essential part of any septic tank system. It runs or extends from the access ports (pumping opening) of your underground septic tank to the ground surface.

SA Health On-site Wastewater Systems Code (the Code)

Under the Code, septic tanks (including all new septic tanks) are required to have access and inspection openings shafted to the surface level using a SA Health approved access shaft. All covers shall be terminated a minimum of 50mm (for septic tanks) or 100mm (for AWTS) above the finished ground surface level. The surrounding surface must be graded away from the cover to prevent ingress of surface water. For connections to a CWMS, the relevant authority may require an existing septic tank to be shafted to surface level for maintenance purposes such as desludging, testing and inspection, by notice or as a condition of approval.

Old septic tanks



Many septic tanks are completely buried underground, making access for maintenance difficult. Without good access or knowledge of the septic tank's location, regular maintenance is often not conducted, and it is easy for the tank to allow untreated sewage to flow into the disposal area. This can be a very costly and inconvenient exercise.

What does a septic tank riser do?

Risers are used to bring the access point of the septic tank to the surface, making it easier to inspect and maintain the tank. Risers have a secure lid on the top that enable easy access for routine inspections, maintenance, or pumping without digging up your yard.

This can save homeowners and businesses time and money, as it reduces the need for costly digging and excavation. Nowadays, risers are mandatory for all new septic systems.



How much does a riser cost?

The cost of septic tank risers usually depends on the material. Septic risers are available in a variety of materials, including plastic and concrete. It is suggested that you contact the manufacturer of the septic tank, as a compatible model is likely to fit better. Alternatively you can engage a licensed plumber to find the make/model of your septic tank.

Installation of a riser

The installation of a riser should be done by a qualified plumber. Opening a septic tank access can be dangerous as the gases that come out of the septic tank are highly flammable, poisonous and noxious, and can knock you unconscious.