

quick guide

Environmentally, connection to mains drainage is the best option but the cost of connection, usually based upon the proximity of the mains sewer, can be prohibitive. Here's your quick-fire pros and cons guide to the Serious options available to you.

Pumping to mains sewer

Expensive to implement but requires little maintenance with only the pumps requiring a regular service.

Pros

**Little maintenance required with only the pumps requiring a regular service
No tankage required other than when maintaining pumps**

Cons

Expensive to implement

Cesspools

Cesspools are watertight tanks, installed underground, for the storage of sewage. They are usually only used where no other options are available i.e. ground conditions are not suitable for the waste to soak away to land or there is no watercourse for treated effluent to discharge to. They have no outlet and as such are favourable where pollution is a significant problem.

Pros

Low installed cost

No maintenance required except to check when full

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Cons

Tank could overflow

No treatment of sewage

Tankerage of waste required frequently

Septic tanks

Septic tanks allow settling of solids from the liquid, which then soaks away through a land drain. They can only be used when the soil is of a suitable type to allow the liquid to drain away easily.

Pros

Relatively low installed cost

Some treatment of sewage

Liquid drains away to environment

No inspection required except to check when full

Cons

Potential for grease and scum to build up on the liquid layer

Tankerage required at least annually to maintain efficiency and prevent damage to the soakaway

Generally only used for single domestic installations or small developments

Package sewage treatment plants

Package sewage treatment plants are prefabricated systems that can be installed with minimal site work. Using various bio-chemical and pumped processes they treat effluent to a higher standard than septic tank systems and so usually allow discharge to a convenient watercourse. Treatment plants are often preferred over septic tanks by the Environment Agency and should also be considered where space is limited or where other options are not possible.

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Pros

**Allow discharge to a watercourse due to higher standard of treatment
Plants are available to service sites with populations up to 1000**

Cons

**Require an electrical power supply
Require regular maintenance and tankerage**

For further information

**Check out the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guideline
No 4 (PPG4) Disposal of sewage where no mains drainage is available.**

**Specialist knowledge is advisable in the detailed design and installation
of small sewage treatment works and guidance is given in BS 6297: 1983
Code of practice for design and installation of small sewage treatment
works and cesspools (see also paragraph 1.72).**