



BSA Lic# 1198242

# COASTAL

**Wastewater Specialists**

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## LOOKING AFTER YOUR HSTP

The greatest causes of problems with your treatment plant are **cleaning products** and the **washing machine**.

## DO I HAVE TO USE ANY SPECIAL TYPE OF DETERGENTS AND WASHING POWDERS?

PLEASE NOTE: The following information is not intended to promote or discredit the product of any Company. It is provided to assist in ensuring the satisfactory on-going operation of your system.

To protect the environment and ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your treatment plant it is recommended that you use environment friendly detergents and cleaners.

Using cleaners and detergents that contain high levels of ammonia (eg bleach) and/or phosphorus is hazardous to the biological health of your HSTP. These types of cleaners kill off the natural bacteria and micro-organisms used to treat the primary effluent. Reduction of the natural bacteria of your HSTP will result in a much lower level of primary treatment and may produce unpleasant "septic" odours. High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus also contribute to the growth of algae and other less desirable micro-organisms in the environment eg algal growth in waterways.

Environment friendly cleaners are those cleaners that either use no chemicals or reduced levels of chemicals.

Washing powders/liquids may use labeling that indicates the phosphorus level of the product. Look for the following symbols on the packaging of cleaning products:

### **P**

This symbol lets you know that the product complies with the agreed Australian industry standard on phosphorus, which imposes a maximum content of 7.8 grams per wash. The standard is designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Australian waterways.

### **NP**

This symbol lets you know that the product contains no added phosphorus. Levels of 0.5% may be present.

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## **SUITABLE PRODUCTS - All products should be used in moderation**

### **DISWASHING LIQUIDS**

Adds Morning Fresh Bushlands Rix Palmolive Sunlight Greenapple Kit Finish for Dishwashers (limit quantity)

### **SURFACE CLEANERS**

Jiff Cream Cleaner Spray & Wipe (limit quantity) Nifty Swipe Shower Power Windex

### **TOILET CLEANERS**

Jiff Cream Cleaner or any cream cleaner – Toilet fresheners are not recommended.

### **FLOOR CLEANERS**

Use hot water and detergent

### **LAUNDRY POWDERS AND LIQUIDS**

We highly recommend visiting this independent website [www.lanfaxlabs.com.au](http://www.lanfaxlabs.com.au) for further information on laundry products. They have a concise, comprehensive and independent brochure detailing laundry products that is available for free download.

## **AVOIDABLE PRODUCTS**

### **ANTIBACTERIAL SOLUTIONS**

Antibiotics Nappy Plus Pineoclean Blue Loo Napisan Preen Soaker Bio-Ad Nappy Soft Tri-zyme Bio Jo Nappy Fresh Toilet Duck Milton Tablets Nursil Toilet Cleaners

### **BLEACHES**

Domestos Lemon Bleach White King Budget Lemon Zixo Fiesta Marvolinn

### **OTHER CLEANERS**

Ajax ESP Herbal Metho or Kero Swipol Aussa Exit Mould Flea, Tick Wash Handy Andy Bubble Baths Floor Cleaners Spirits/Alcohol Draino Caustic Oven Cleaners Green Choice Down to Earth

## **QUICK TIPS – DO'S & DON'TS**

**DO Try to evenly spread your washing over a period of a week.** Avoid where possible to wash everything in one day. It puts too much water in the system and your HSTP will struggle to cope. Liquid soaps breakdown easier than granulate styles do. Try not to be heavy handed with the amount of soaps you use.

**Use only recommended biodegradable products that don't contain disinfectants.** Any product used that kills bacteria is harmful to your system. If you wish to use some of the harsher cleaning products, it is suggested that you use a bucket and discard the contents in the garden. This also applies to disinfectant, surface sprays and wipes.

The use of toilet paper that disintegrates easily is recommended.

With a new installation or immediately after a pump out, it is essential that the tank be filled with water. The build up of sludge in the bottom of the primary/secondary sectors of the treatment system must be removed regularly (approx every 5-10 years).

Maintain mosquito proofing on all vents. Mosquitoes can breed rapidly in the environment of a sewerage tank.

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Ensure that your disposal area is operating as designed – wastewater should be disposed of evenly over the entire irrigation area. Avoid ponding. Move sprinkler hoses regularly (ensure hoses are not kinked and sprinklers are not blocked). Maintain signage.

**DON'T:** Do not allow foreign objects, (eg. Nappy liners, disposable nappies, tampons, pads, condoms etc) to enter the system. Pouring large quantities (1/2 litre or more) of beer, wine, milk or fruit juice into the system should be avoided as it can upset the balance in your system. Do not use garbage grinders or insinkerators.

Do not cover tanks with earth, cement, paver or any material.

Do not prevent quick and easy access to any inspection openings.

Do not allow roof or surface water to enter any part of the system. Ensure that diversion mounds around the media filter bed are maintained. Direct surface water away from media bed and treatment tank and ensure that stormwater/rainwater outlets do not discharge in the treatment area.

**THINGS TO ABSOLUTELY AVOID:** Chlorine, disinfectant, bleaches, caustics and heavy chemical products, nappy san, antibacterial products, fat, oil, grease, milk, etc are some of the types of products that will cause the bacteria to die off in your HSTP.

### **Further Tips...**

#### **Irrigation System**

Irrigation lines, spray heads etc can clog up over extended periods of use. Ensure hoses remain unkinked and sprinkler heads unblocked.

Some systems with subsurface irrigation may have 1 or 2 in-line filters. These must be removed and cleaned at every service however as the homeowner you should be aware of where they are located in case they require cleaning in between services.

#### **Plumbing Problems**

Blockages in the drainage pipes from the house to the system are plumbing problems. If your household fittings are not draining away, please check the inlet to the system for blockages. Usually the lines can be cleared at the inlet point by inserting a rod down the pipe. Should this not be possible please call your local plumber or drainer.

The loss of a water seal in fittings, allowing gases to escape, should be initially referred to your local plumber for corrective measures. An incorrectly constructed E Duct Vent could be the cause of this problem. E Duct Vents should be constructed to ensure the proper dispersal of gaseous by-products prevalent in all forms of sewerage treatment. The vent should be positioned at least 60mm above the highest point in the house so the prevailing winds will carry away such gases.

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