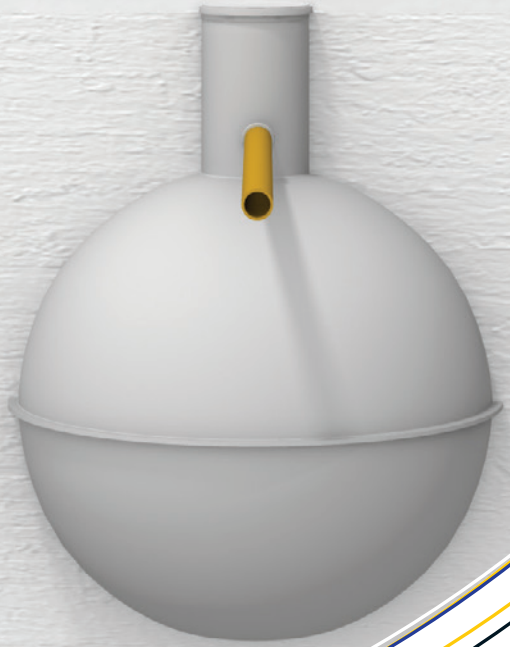
Is your septic tank 2020 compliant?



Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2014 came into force on 1 January 2015 and created General Binding Rules (GBRs) for septic tanks or small sewage treatment plants for domestic use. These rules are designed to reduce the level of pollution from sewage in the nation's watercourses.

Under the new General Binding Rules, if you have a septic tank that discharges directly to surface water, ie, a water ditch, stream, river, etc, you must upgrade or replace your septic tank to a full sewage treatment plant system by 1st January 2020, or sooner if you plan to sell your property before this date.

Current methods of discharging wastewater from septic tanks

Previous to the General Binding Rules, wastewater from septic tanks was typically discharged in the following two ways:

Drainage field

Wastewater is released through a network of pipes in surrounding sub-soils, providing an additional form of treatment for the waste from the septic tank. This helps to ensure that the wastewater being dispersed does not cause pollution.

Septic tanks discharging into a drainage field are not affected by the 2020 septic tank regulations.

Directly to surface water

Wastewater flows through a pipe directly into a stream, river or lake.

Binding rules state that direct discharge from a septic tank into a watercourse is not permitted.

So, what are your options?

If you have a septic tank and it is currently discharging to surface water, you have four options:

1

Connect to the main sewer

This may not be possible in remote locations, although pump chambers can be used to direct wastewater to the mains sewer.

2

Install a drainage field

(Designed in accordance with BS6297)

This allows the septic tank to discharge wastewater into the ground instead of surface water. In many cases, the installation of a drainage field is not possible due to site constraints such as space and/or the soil not having sufficient drainage potential (ie, rock, clay, high water table).

3

Install a Uni:Gem septic conversion unit

A Marsh Uni:Gem can be installed and connected to a pre-existing septic tank. This treats the wastewater to a sufficient quality allowing it to be discharged to surface water.

4

Upgrade your septic tank to a Marsh sewage treatment plant

This eliminates the need for a drainage field and ensures that the wastewater is fully treated before being discharged.

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Source: "General binding rules: small sewage discharge to a surface water - gov.uk"
For more details and further guidance, visit: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water

OFF-MAINS sewage treatment solutions

Ensign™

CE

The Marsh Ensign is widely regarded as one of the most efficient, reliable and economical sewage treatment plants on the market.

Tested and approved to BSEN12566-3/A1:2009 all Ensign units provide treatment well within national consent requirements. Published test results of 11.5:19.2:8.4mg/ltr (BOD:suspended solids:ammonia), with influent concentrations on test higher than those chosen by most competitor plants, effectively equates to 97% pollutant removal.

Ranging in size from 4 to 50PE in Ultra, Standard and Shallow versions of each, and with a wide range of ancillaries, almost all site, consent and budget requirements can be met by units from the range.

Ultra:Polylok L

CE

Introducing the latest innovation in domestic sewage treatment technology, the Marsh Ultra:Polylok L (UPL).

The UPL draws upon Marsh Industries' extensive experience in the industrial and commercial sewage treatment sectors bringing its outstanding performance and value engineering to the domestic sector.

The Marsh UPL is available in 6PE and 12PE models, is approved to BS EN12566-3 and carries an impressive effluent quality of 20:30:20, within national consent standards.

Both models are compact and easy to install, meeting the needs of installers and specifiers alike.

Uni:Gem septic conversion unit

The Uni:Gem is an efficient, economical solution for sites where a new or replacement sewage treatment plant is unfeasible.

Available for sites up to 40+ persons, the Uni:Gem is a septic conversion unit which uses aerobic extended aeration, combined with biomass actuation to treat effluent from existing septic tanks or sewage treatment plants.

Uni:Gem units are suitable for domestic, commercial and agricultural applications. Hundreds of units have been successfully installed on sites throughout the UK.

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