



Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

Septic Tank Desludging Recommendations

Failure to desludge, (empty), a septic tank or treatment system has been found by local authorities nationwide as being the single most common cause of failures under the current inspection scheme. Donegal Co. Council & the EPA recommend desludging septic tanks in accordance with the recommended intervals given below, which depend on the following;

- The size of the septic tank, (3400 L is most commonly used for a 3 or 4-bed house)
- The number of people in the house
- The solids content & waste strength of wastewater, (use of a macerator will decrease interval between desludging).

Table 12.2: De-sludging frequency (1 to 5 years) for various sizes of tank and Number of house occupants

Tank useable volume (m ³)	Number of house occupants						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.5	5	3	2	1	1	1	1
3	5	3	2	2	1	1	1
3.5	5	4	3	2	2	1	1
4	5	5	3	3	2	2	1
4.5	5	5	4	3	2	2	2
5	5	5	5	3	3	2	2
5.5	5	5	5	4	3	2	2
6	5	5	5	5	3	3	2

All values in years.

If sludge is not removed, solids will overflow into the percolation area or soakpit & clog it up, leading to sewage ponding on the surface over a short period of time.

Who can desludge Septic Tanks?

Desludging should be carried out by a contractor authorised under the *Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007, (SI No. 820 of 2007)*, a list of whom is shown overleaf. These contractors are required to dispose of the sludge in accordance with the legislation. If you wish to check if someone has a Waste Collection Permit log onto www.nwcpc.ie.

The only exception is that an Owner of a septic tank may carry out desludging of that system & use its contents in agriculture in accordance with the *Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations 1998 (SI 148 of 1998)*, which requires a Nutrient Management Plan. It should not be applied to land on which fruit or vegetables are grown or on grassland if it is planned to graze or harvest silage within 3 weeks of application.

Farmers may not desludge systems other than their own as they do not hold Waste Collection Permits and movement of such wastes contravenes SI 820 of 2007, (above).

Please desludge your tank at least 5 days before a Council Inspection

Waste Collection Permit Holders – Septic Tanks, Treatment Systems & Portaloos

WCP Number	Name	Trading As	Address	Email	Telephone
NWCP0-15-11686-02	Brendan Gallagher	Clean & Clear	Cashelard, Ballyshannon Co. Donegal	brendangallagher71@gmail.com	0719852181
NWCP0-11-08100-04	D S Environmental Services Ltd		Leitir, Kilmacrennan, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	pamela@dsenvironmental.ie	0749139522
NWCP0-11-08038-06	D&M Environmental Services Ltd	DM Waste	Labbadish, Manorcunningham, Co. Donegal	info@dmwaste.com	0749157189
WCP-DL-07-175-01	Robert Doherty	Bobby Doherty	Carnamuggagh Upper, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal		074 9124618
NWCP0-15-11575-01	Enviro Grind Limited		Donegal Road, Pettigo, Co. Donegal	info@envirogrindltd.com	0719861772
NWCP0-19-12302-01	Glenard Plant Ltd		60 Tara Court Letterkenny Co. Donegal F92 E544	info@glenardplant.ie	0749124638
NWCP0-09-08226-02	MAST Construction Ltd		Old Mountain, Desertegney, Buncrana Co. Donegal	mastconstruction1@eircom.net	0749361727
NWCP0-07-08061-03	Meehan Bros (Killybegs) Ltd		Leiter, Killybegs, Co. Donegal	meehanbros@gmail.com	0872310283
NWCP0-17-11914-01	McCann Haulage Ltd	McCann Haulage Ltd	65 Kilnacart Road Dunamoney Dungannon Co. Tyrone BT70 1PD	mccannhaulageltd@gmail.com	00447866413254
NWCP0-16-11744-01	H. McLaughlin & Sons Ltd	HML Plant Hire & Construction	Cleenagh, Ballymagan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal	hubert@hmlplant.ie	0749363555;63777
NWCP0-15-11632-01	Shane McNulty	Macks Drain Cleaning and Septic Tank Services	Upper Main Street, Mountcharles, Co. Donegal	macsdraincleaning@gmail.com	0749735866
NWCP0-11-08002-06	Shaun Molloy & Sons Ltd	Donegal Waste & Recycle	Drimnacrosch Glenties Co Donegal	info@donegalwaste.com	0749551412
NWCP0-18-12072-01	Derek Quinn		Upper Listanna, St. Johnston, Co. Donegal	edelquinn1@gmail.com	0872983024 087 2981320
NWCP0-01-08117-04	Terence C Quinn Ltd	Terence C Quinn Ltd	Carrickdawson Raphoe Co. Donegal	teriquinn@eircom.net	074 9145572 087 2758743 087 2517047
NWCP0-07-08005-08	Sharkey Waste Recycling Ltd / Athchursail Dramhaiola Ui Shearcaigh Teo	Sharkey Waste & Recycle	Bunaman Annagry Co. Donegal	info@sharkeywaste.ie	0749548229
NWCP0-08-08133-03	Eamon Sweeney	Sweeney's Septic Tank Cleaning	Drimnatinney, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal	duggan9@eircom.net	0879125234
NWCP0-21-12688-01	Watson Clarke Hire Ltd	Watson Hire	Lisnennan Industrial Estate Letterkenny Co. Donegal	info@watsonhire.ie	0749167777