

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**On-site domestic wastewater
management**



AS/NZS 1547:2012

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee WS-013, On-set Domestic Wastewater Management. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 13 February 2012 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 10 February 2012. This Standard was published on 27 February 2012.

The following are represented on Committee WS-013:

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Association of Rotational Moulders (Australasia)
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Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group
Australian Building Codes Board
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 07920.

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

On-site domestic wastewater management

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AS 1547:1994 and part of NZS 4610:1982 jointly revised,
amalgamated, and redesigned as AS/NZS 1547:2000.
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FOREWORD

This 2012 Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee WS-013 On-site Domestic-wastewater Management to supersede AS/NZS 1547:2000 *On-site domestic-wastewater management*.

If on-site domestic wastewater systems are to be effective and sustainable, and to play their part in protecting public health and the environment, a system of management and control needs to be in place. While this will often fall to the regulatory authorities to administer, private management and control will have a part to play. Nevertheless, formulation of a regulatory process is not part of this Standard, and the application of this Standard does not circumvent other approvals, licences, or permits needed from any regulatory authority.

The Committee has adopted an approach that focuses on sustainably managing the risk to public health and the environment. For example, it is stressed that a risk management approach entails looking more at the risk of a particular situation than the numerical values which are put forward in this document as guidance. This Standard, covering as it does a range of climates, soils, and jurisdictions can only provide conservative advice. Local conditions and local experience should be used whenever possible, where they demonstrate that there are no significant risks to public health or to the environment and that the proposed design is more cost-effective than when using this Standard prescriptively. Guidance on collating local knowledge and experience has accordingly been provided. New knowledge or techniques are to be encouraged where there is adequate demonstration that the risk of failure is small.

Readers of the previous Standard will notice that much of the methodology is unchanged, even though the document has been reworked to reflect a risk-management approach. This is deliberate. The previous Standard incorporated much that was already essentially the management of risk. What was felt necessary was that features such as monitoring and feedback should be expressed more clearly. Accordingly, the Standard has been restructured to allow for the integration of the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of on-site domestic wastewater systems into a risk management framework. It follows that in any development, the option of installing full sewerage shall also be considered.

The main purpose of the Standard is to set out the performance objectives, requirements, and criteria, together with the means of not only complying with these criteria but of continually improving the techniques employed by all stakeholders.

To assist users familiar with the structure of AS/NZS 1547:2000, Appendix V provides information on where the equivalent clauses are now located in the 2012 version. For example, Appendix 4.2D of the 2000 version is now Appendix H.

This revision acknowledges the importance of water conservation, however it also maintains that sustainable reuse is beyond the scope of this Standard. For guidance on sustainable reuse, refer to national or state guidelines.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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