

Operation and Maintenance Instructions GRAF Septic Tanks

A variety of models and sizes available



It is imperative to observe the items described in these instructions. In case of non-compliance, all warranty claims shall lapse. For all add-on items from GRAF, you shall receive separate installation instructions included with the transport packaging.

Please check for updates of this manual with the distributor of choice or request it from GRAF directly.

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1. Safety notice

1. Safety notice

The applicable accident prevention regulations in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS Act) and Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 (WHS Regulations) must be observed during all work. The work must be performed by a licensed plumber and a second person should be present for safety reasons.

Furthermore, all relevant regulations and standards must be observed during assembly, installation, maintenance, and repair. Details hereto can be found in the respective paragraphs of these instructions.



The tank cover must remain closed at all times, otherwise there is an increased risk of accident.



The rain protection mounted at delivery only serves as packaging for the transport only. It must be removed immediately upon delivery and replaced by an appropriate cover (telescopic dome shaft with respective cover). Only original GRAF covers or covers approved in writing by GRAF must be used.

All GRAF manufactured tanks comply with AS/NZS 1546.1 and are subjected to our quality system which is QMS:ISO 9001 certified.

GRAF offers a wide range of accessory parts which are precisely coordinated and can be used to complete systems. The use of different accessory parts can lead to impact the functionality of the system, and to void liability for consequential damages.

2. Operation and Maintenance

2.1. Note

Prerequisites to ensure fault free operation of this tank are compliance with Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards), Regulations, and Standards, as a matter of principle. Beyond these prerequisites, the instructions from GRAF Assembly and Installation manual and GRAF Operation and Maintenance manual are essential.

The authorities can demand to be shown all operational records and documents during an inspection. Those which operate the plant conscientiously and are able to provide carefully compiled documentation and all the necessary records tend to be subject to fewer inspections.

2.2. Operation

The tank cover must remain closed at all times.

GRAF Septic Tanks must not receive any incompatible waste streams that interfere with the treatment performance. This constitutes wave of warranty.

Unauthorised removal of components of the separator system is not permitted. Any damage to system components or operational faults must be repaired immediately by a specialist company on the operator's own initiative.

2.3. Inspection

No work needs to be undertaken inside the tank.

Sludge and scum layers are measured. The commonly used practice is to pump out when the sum of the measurements of the sludge layer and the scum layer is equivalent to 25% to 33% of the total liquid depth in the tank. It is appropriate to use a sludge judge, core sampler, or equivalent.

Once sufficient experience in how the system operates has been gained, the definitive intervals for inspection can be determined. It is advisable to also check any pump associated to the system, distribution box, infiltration area, and signs of damage, leaks, or faults. Clean outlet filters if present.

2. Operation and Maintenance

In the case of need for a pump out, a disposal servicing should be performed by a licensed liquid waste transporter (please refer to 2.4. Maintenance). If faults were identified, they must be rectified immediately.

The sample that is obtained through the inspection pipe is indicative of the effluent leaving the tank. Alternately, without an inspection pipe, the distribution box may be used to collect a sample.

2.4. Maintenance

The tank might need to be pump out at regular intervals if specified by the local authority guidelines. The 2.7. Operational Log may signal for a decrease in pump out frequency if monitoring indicates that device take longer to accumulates contaminants. Additionally, maintenance must be done when deemed required by 2.3. Inspection.

The pump out should be performed by a licensed liquid waste transporter. The service is to be made by inserting the vacuum hose into access lid. The subsequent refilling of the system must be undertaken using water which complies with the local supply provisions. All relevant regulations on waste disposal must be complied with in disposing after pump-out.

2.5. What to Do in the Event of a Fault

If the water is no longer able to flow freely through the tank.

- notify the company assigned for 2.4 Maintenance immediately

2.6. Operational Log

An operational log, in which the dates and results of the inspections undertaken, maintenance undertaken, and the remedying of any faults identified are documented, must be maintained.

The operational log must be stored by the operator and must be presented to the relevant authority if requested.

3. Owner's Manual

Australian councils often have specific requirements for septic tank sizing, installation, and operation. Your local government can advise you to whom an application should be made. It is recommended to wait for the feedback of your application prior to purchasing a system. A second application may be required prior to commencing operation.

3.1. Key reminders for owners:

Regular maintenance and proper usage will help your septic stay reliable and efficient.

Watch water usage - High water usage can overload the system, so try to spread out laundry, dishwashing, and other water-intensive tasks.

Proper waste disposal - Minimise the waste that goes in your system (refer to 3.2 List). Do not install a garbage grinder unless you have discussed it with the Council for approval. Clean out your grease trap.

Avoid chemicals - Harsh chemicals, including bleach, drain cleaners, and antibacterial soaps, can kill the beneficial bacteria in the septic tank. Use septic-friendly detergents or brands marked as low in phosphorus and sodium: septic-safe detergents and cleaning products.

Inspection - Regular inspections are important to check for signs of damage, leaks, or system faults. It is recommended to use an authorised agent. Request your agent to check any pump associated to your system, distribution box, and infiltration area.

Pump out - Septic tanks should be pump-out usually every 3 to 5 years, depending on the size of the tank, the number of people using the system, and the practices of the users. Sludge and scum build up over time and they reduce the effective volume of the tank. Pumping when required allows the system to function properly and prevent problems to the infiltration area. Refill the tank after pump-out.

Maintain good drainage - Ensure roof water, surface water, or seepage water does not enter any part of the system. Keep the ground around your septic tank and infiltration area sloped so that water doesn't pool and flood the system. Grass is a better option for the infiltration area than coverings such as concrete or asphalt, as it removes unnecessary moisture and prevents erosion. If it was possible to select grass covering, keep it clear of vehicles to avoid compaction of soil or any other damage to the system.

3. Owner's Manual

3.2. List of substances which must not be disposed of with the wastewater:

Solids or liquids which should not be disposed of via the sink or toilet:	Correct disposal:
Ash	Waste bin
Chemicals	Collection points
Disinfectants	Do not use
Paints	Local collection point
Wallpaper paste	Local collection point
Paintbrush cleaners	Local collection point
Varnishes	Local collection point
Cement water	Contact specialist company
Photochemical	Local collection point
Fat and grease from cooking	Wipe pots and pans with paper towel or equivalent and place the paper in the waste bin
Oil from frying	Local collection points
Food waste	Waste bin
Corks	Waste bin
Bird sand, cat litter	Waste bin
Cleaning agents, except chlorine-free products)	Local collection point
Textiles (e.g. nylon tights, cleaning cloths, handkerchiefs etc.)	Textiles collection point
Engine oil	Collection points, service stations
Gardening products	Local collection point
Adhesive dressing	Waste bin
Cigarette butts	Waste bin
Medicines	Collection points, pharmacies
Razor blades	Waste bin
Condoms	Waste bin
Cotton buds	Waste bin
Disposable pads, tampons, etc	Waste bin
Wipes and multi-ply toilet paper (2-ply, 3-ply)	Do not use, use single ply toilet paper only
Nappies and Incontinence Products	Waste bin