

altogether.

landscapers guide.

water



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1 purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a guide for landscaping of private properties in communities serviced by Altogether. This guide outlines the requirements and implications of your landscaping with regards to Altogether's on-property sewerage system infrastructure.

This landscaping guide can be used as a stand-alone document or can be read in conjunction with the [builders' guide](#).

landscaping around sewerage infrastructure

Landscaping around Altogether's on-property sewerage infrastructure is allowed, although please remember that Altogether must have access to the system at all times, particularly the wastewater collection tank and boundary kit. Therefore, the wastewater collection tank and boundary kit **must never be buried**.

Nothing can obstruct the top of the wastewater collection tank or boundary kit. They must remain clear of any other structures including buildings and hard landscaping features. They must have no heavy objects such as pot plants placed on top of them or cars, boats, caravans, trailers, etc. parked above them.

Altogether require minimum 2.0m to the footings of building structures (excluding porches/verandahs/patios, which require 0.5m clearance to edge of tank to a single storey dwelling only). You must leave a clearance area of 500mm around the circumference of the wastewater collection tank lid. You must always leave a clearance area of 500mm around the circumference of the wastewater tank lid of any hard landscaping features including driveways, paved walkways, retaining walls etc. Materials such as grass, mulch or pebbles are permissible.

A minimum of 50mm clearance below the outer rim of the wastewater collection tank lid is required for finished soil levels. To assist with surface water drainage, the landscaping must ensure the surrounding ground level slopes away from the lid of the wastewater collection tank.

In order to maintain the on-property sewerage infrastructure as required from time to time, Altogether needs 24/7 access to the wastewater collection tank and boundary kit. While best endeavours will be made to contact the occupant, if access is required urgently, Altogether has the right to remove anything that interferes with access to our infrastructure and if necessary, Altogether will trim or remove trees or shrubbery without notice.

2 raising the level of your land

Altogether's wastewater collection tank and boundary kit were installed as part of the subdivision development of your land.

They were positioned in the most suitable location for the sewerage system to operate on your property, taking into consideration the topography of the land, the connection to the network mains in the street, and the hydraulic design requirement of being able to drain the wastewater from the future dwelling.

We understand that from time to time, some homeowners may wish to modify the finished level of their land to suit the building and/or landscaping of their home.

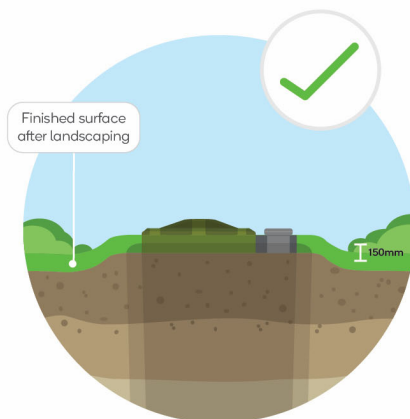
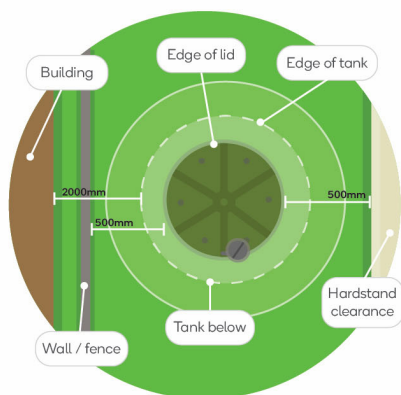
If you would like to raise the level of your land to the extent that Altogether subsequently needs to raise the level of our wastewater collection tank, one of the following three options may need to be applied at your cost:

- a [lid adapter](#) to raise the wastewater collection tank level by 150mm (Note: not an option if tank already has a lid adaptor installed)
- a 300mm [tank riser](#) to raise the wastewater collection tank level by 300mm (Note: not an option if 2 x 300mm risers already installed)
- 2 x 300mm [tank risers](#) to increase the wastewater collection tank level by 600mm (this is the maximum level that the tank can be raised this is not an option if the tank already has 1 or 2 risers previously installed)

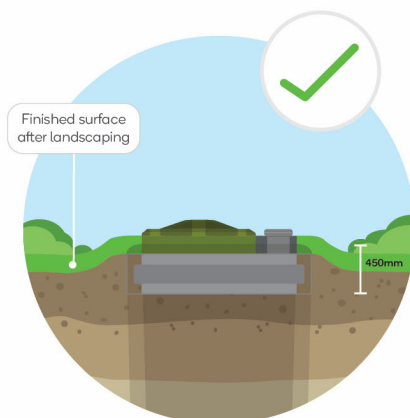
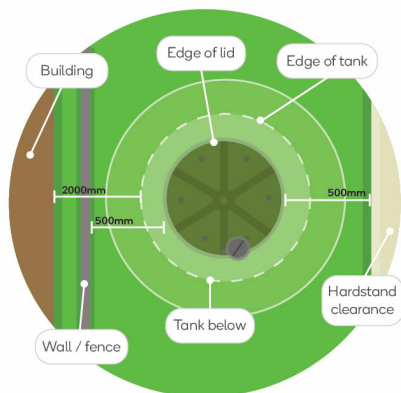
If you would like to apply to have the wastewater collection tank raised, please contact us online or via telephone on 1300 803 803. Our team will assess your site-specific requirements and advise you whether it is technically possible to raise the level of the wastewater collection tank. Where it is technically possible, we will refer you to the appropriate product in our [online shop](#).

Should the level of the land be raised without application and consent then alterations will be undertaken and the property owner will be charged.

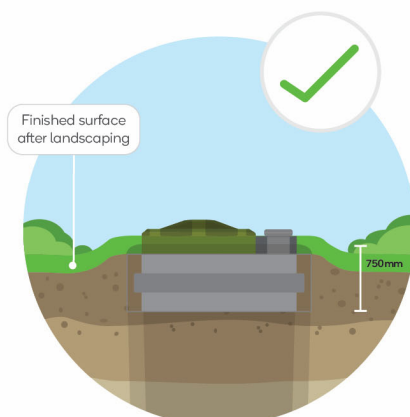
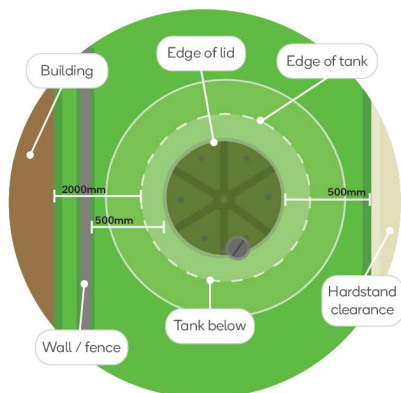
150mm Lid Adapter



150mm Lid Adapter with 300mm Riser



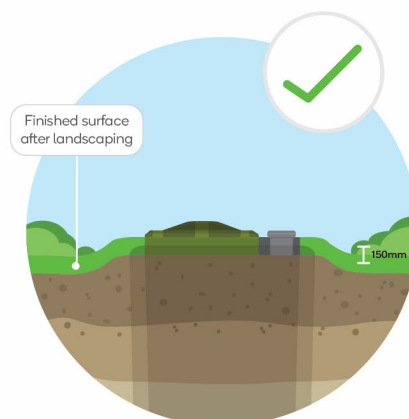
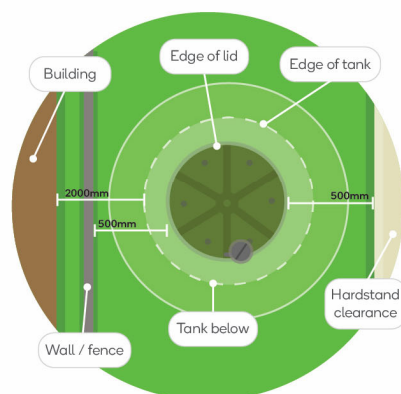
150mm Lid Adapter with 600mm Riser



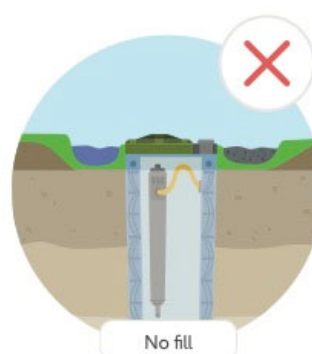
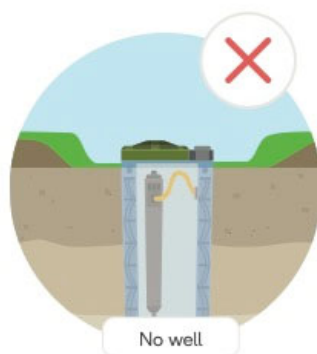
3 examples of incorrect landscaping

You must adhere to the mandatory clearances for landscaping or building around the wastewater collection tank as per the diagrams below:

150mm Lid Adapter



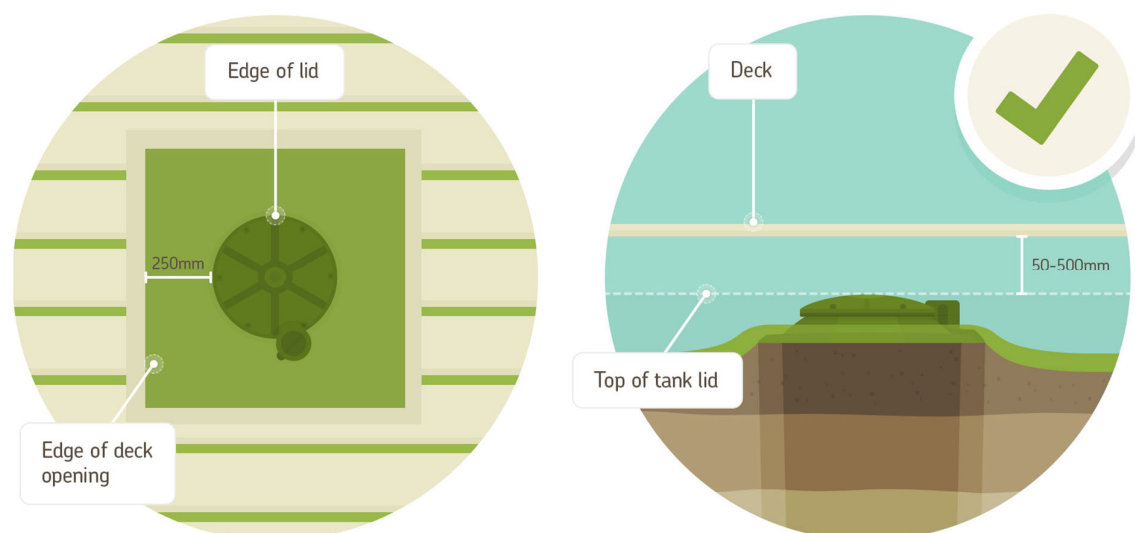
Below are some examples of inappropriate landscaping around the wastewater collection tank. Failure to follow these landscaping guidelines may cause significant inconvenience and costly repairs which will be your responsibility. It's a good idea to consult a landscape designer before planting or constructing the landscaping around Altogether's wastewater collection tank and boundary kit.



4 building a deck

Should you wish to build a deck over the wastewater collection tank you may do so, however you must provide a removable hatch in the decking directly above the tank to provide Altogether with safe and unfettered access to the tank.

The below clearances are required to allow access to the tank, noting that there needs to be sufficient space (minimum 250mm) between the edge of the tank lid and the edge of the deck hatch opening for a person to safely stand next to the tank and be able to open the lid to access the pump. Also, the depth from the top of the deck to the top of the wastewater collection tank lid must be no greater than 500mm. The area beneath the tank must freely drain away from the tank lid to avoid rainwater entering the top of the tank.



5 tree planting

Roots anchor and support trees, but they also seek and supply moisture and nutrients for continued growth. As a result, some tree species are not suitable near sewer pipes as their roots can infiltrate and eventually destroy pipes, resulting in blockages and sewage overflows. This damage can cause significant inconvenience and costly repairs for the homeowner.

Although tree species vary considerably in their ability for roots to cause damage to the sewerage system, tree roots cause about 80% of all dry weather sewage overflows.

A plant nursery can provide advice about trees and their root systems. It's also a good idea to seek advice from a landscape designer before planting trees anywhere near the sewerage system (this includes both Altogether's wastewater collection tank and your private sewer pipes connecting your dwelling to our tank).

The following trees are likely to result in root damage to sewerage infrastructure. If any of the following plants are used, Altogether recommends planting these species **at least six metres away** from the wastewater collection tank and your own private sewer pipes.

TREE SPECIES NOT ALLOWED NEAR SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apricot, avocado, cherry, peach and plum trees• Ash (Fraxinus)• Bamboo• Bottlebrush• Brush Box• Canary Island Date Palm• Casuarina / She-Oak (especially• River Oak, Swamp Oak)• Cedar• Chinese Tallow Tree• Camphor Laurel• Coral Tree (Erythrina)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crepe Myrtle• Cypress Pine (Callitris)• Figs (Moreton Bay Fig, Hills Weeping Fig, Rubber Tree)• Gum trees (large)• Illawarra Flame Tree• Jacaranda• Lemon Myrtle• Liquidambar• Lilly Pilly (Syzygium)• Magnolias (large)• Maple• Mulberry (esp. Black Mulberry)
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6 mulch

Altogether encourages the use of mulch in the garden as it helps retain water, enhances the vitality of a plant, promotes improved soil composition, and reduces weed infestation.

Any mulch can be used as ground coverage around the wastewater collection tank including bark, pebbles, gravel, wood chip, etc. Please remember that Altogether must have access to the system at all times; accordingly mulch levels simply need to be kept below the outer rim of the wastewater collection tank lid.

7 pools and spas

All pool and spa installations require approval from Altogether and the local council.

Generally, connections from swimming pools or spas to the household sewerage system are permitted if you adhere to the [pool and spa guide](#).

If you wish to seek approval from Altogether to connect to the sewerage system, the following conditions need to be met:

1) Any approved connections to the sewerage system must be limited in flow rate to less than 0.5 L/sec to make sure that the pump can cope with the additional flow entering into the wastewater collection tank. This can be achieved in either of two ways:

- any pump or pipe connecting the discharge to the wastewater collection tank is hydraulically limited to a maximum total flow rate of 0.5 L/sec or;
- an intermediate buffer tank is installed which controls the discharge flow rate to no more than 0.5 L/sec.

2) Any discharge flow rate greater than the 0.5L/sec limit will not be permitted due to the potential for the wastewater collection tank to overflow.

3) Recycled water **must not** be used to fill or top up swimming pools or spas. Only drinking water is to be used. Pool and spa maintenance are the homeowner's responsibility, and this includes meeting the water use rules set by NSW Health.

For further information, please refer to the [pool and spa guide](#).