

PERFECT-PITCHING

PRIVATE CARAVAN SITE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY

CHEMICAL TOILET EMPTYING POINT:

TRADITIONAL SERVICE POINTS:

The provision of a serviceable Chemical Toilet Emptying Point (CTEP) is one of the most basic requirements for a touring site but possibly the item that receives the least consideration in design terms.

The CTEP must be both safe and practical, ideally easy to use, unobtrusive and of have no detrimental impact on the environment or wildlife.

Historically, such service points have comprised of a manhole with removable cover giving direct access to a sewer and/or holding tank below.

Whilst the detail may have varied the principle of such CTEPs remains one of basic functionality; no more and no less and in no way enhances the task of chemical toilet emptying.



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TRADITIONAL SERVICE POINTS (Cont'd):

However acceptable these CTEPs may have been in the past, that is where they belong and have no place on a new facility; a situation driven by a combination of the ever increasing demands under successive Health & Safety legislation and/or the modern day aspirations of would-be users.



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TRADITIONAL SERVICE POINTS (Cont'd):

Caravanning is family orientated activity participated in by toddlers to grandparents - and in some cases great-grandparents - and the facilities need to embrace that patronage.

The lifting of manhole covers at ground level, even lightweight ones, has the potential of causing a back injury for the less agile user.

On top of this, the sight and smell of an open sewer/holding tank is, for many of the potential users, uncomfortable.

Compounded by the ever present risk of personal possessions (spectacles, hearing aids, mobile phones, false teeth, sets of keys, filler caps and the like) falling into an open sewer/holding tank, and the problems of retrieval of these items let alone what to do with them once retrieved, the unsuitability of such service points becomes more obvious.



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TRADITIONAL SERVICE POINTS (Cont'd):

Irrespective of whatever service point is provided, there is an element of maintenance to ensure that the health and safety of any potential user has been fully considered and preserved.

Missing covers and/or temporary covers create their own problems not only when the service point is in use but if 'investigated,' by some of the younger visitors as part of their play experience and for wildlife in general.



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COMPLIANT SERVICE POINTS:

Having established what is no longer acceptable in terms of a CTEP let's now consider the criteria a compliant service point needs to aspire to:

- Ease of access.
- Solid self-draining working area around that will not become muddy and/or contaminated by spillages.
- Have a cover to:
 - Deter 'investigation' by some of the younger visitors, and
 - Keep out wildlife and vegetation debris (leaves).
- Include a dedicated rinse tap (not to double up as a Drinking Water Service Point).



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COMPLIANT SERVICE POINTS (Cont'd):

How this achieves depends to some extent upon the resources and ability available to the would-be site developer.

The basic options are:

- DIY bespoke installation.
- Commercial bespoke installation.
- Proprietary installation.

Dealing with these in order the following may be worthy of consideration as to how best achieve a compliant service point given the materials and expertise at the individual's disposal.



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CHEMICAL TOILET EMPTYING POINT:

DIY BESPOKE SERVICE POINTS:

One of the major considerations in providing any service point is how it will function in operation coupled with how much attendance will it required in ensuring that it maintained in an acceptable condition.

The basic functionality of a service point is the discharge of chemically laden effluent into a receiving aperture and in this connection size really can matter,

The effluent is emptied from a transfer tank often referred to as a 'cassette'. This can be unwieldy and, coupled with an ever changing weight distribution during emptying, can lead to spillage leaving the user/site owner with the onerous task of having to clean up.



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CHEMICAL TOILET EPTYING POINT:

DIY BESPOKE SERVICE POINTS – GULLEY FED:

One of the cheapest service point designs incorporate a standard plastic house drain gulley (minus the grating) as the receiving receptacle.

With a nominal aperture of 100mm this system could be prone to the spillage issues noted above and the associated additional cleaning.



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CHEMICAL TOILET EPTYING POINT:

DIY BESPOKE SERVICE POINTS – GULLEY FED (Cont'd):

Sufficient to say this installation was replaced with a more serviceable arrangement within weeks of the site being commissioned.

That said, the same fitting incorporated into a manhole would provide a serviceable and functional receiving point.



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CHEMICAL TOILET EMPTYING POINT:

DIY BESPOKE SERVICE POINTS – WC PAN FED:

Having established the limitations with the gulley fed service point let us now consider what would lend itself to a more user friendly facility and one that should require less spillage clear-ups.

The alternative to a small aperture of a house drain/yard gulley is for a fitting which would provide a larger receiving receptacle but at the same time retain the standard 100mm outlet to connect to the drainage system.

Both of these criteria are met by the utilisation of an old WC pan with the added benefit that redundant fittings are invariably readily available.

In it's most basic form this can be but a WC pan set above ground and totally unenclosed;. Whilst this may meet the functionality requirements it leaves a lot to be desired in terms of aesthetics and potentially has a negative effect of the general ambience of the Site.



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BUSINESS PARTNERS:

Whilst it is essential that potential developers seek technical advice from reputable suppliers with the necessary expertise it is also useful if that company has a hands-on insight into the deployment of the equipment in the field so to speak.

‘The Septic Tank Store’ more than meets these criteria with:

- Expert and Friendly Advice from a family run business offering:
 - Free Delivery to UK Mainland and
 - Optional Installation Service.
- Additionally, as a Small Private Caravan Site operator ***‘The Septic Tank Store’*** management have a practical hands-on appreciation of the needs and requirements of a Chemical Toilet Emptying Point.

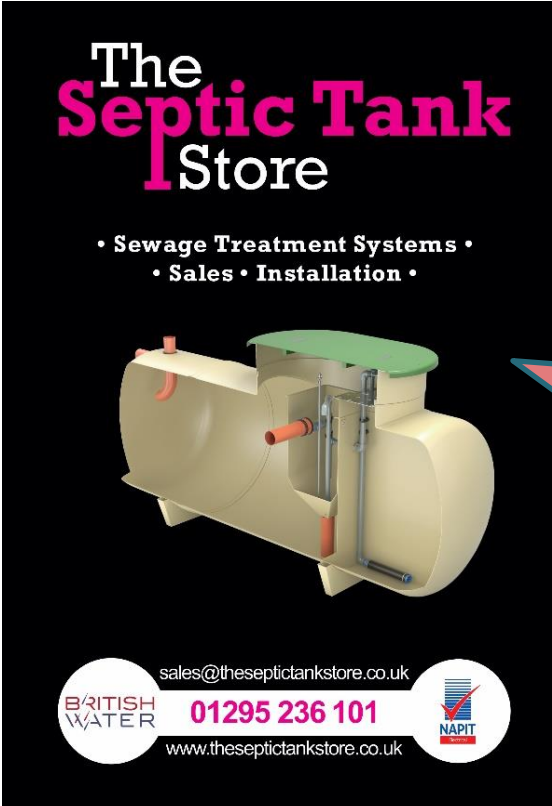


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BUSINESS PARTNERS (Cont'd):



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That concludes the 'taster' edition for this Design Consideration which we trust you have found interesting, informative & imaginative in equal measures.

**TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE LATEST EDITION OF
THIS OR ANY OF THE TOPIC SHEETS**

**Complete the website Booking Form under 'Design
Considerations' and return to
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