

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

Septic Tank Installation and Maintenance — Safe Work Method Statement

■ SWMS required under WHS Regulation 2011, s.299 for high-risk construction work as defined in s.291

Business Name:	[Your Business Name]	ABN:	[Your ABN]
Contact Person:	[Contact Name]	Phone:	[Phone Number]
Site Address:	[Site Address — ACT]	Date:	18 July 2026
Document No:	SWMS-SEPTIC-TAN-001	Revision:	1.0

■ Your business details are automatically pre-filled into every document at purchase

1. SCOPE OF WORK

Safe work procedures for installing new septic systems and maintaining existing on-site sewage management systems including pump-out, inspection, and absorption trench work per AS/NZS 1547.

High Risk Construction Work (s.291): Trenching, Hazardous Chemicals, Confined Space

Regulatory Reference: WHS Reg 2011, Reg 306 — excavation work | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 50 — hazardous atmospheres | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 66 — confined spaces

■ Each SWMS identifies the specific high-risk construction work category under WHS Reg 2011 s.291 that triggers the legal requirement for this document

2. SITE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

The PCBU must assess and document site-specific factors before commencing work. Considerations include but are not limited to:

- Site access and egress routes
- Underground services (gas, water, electrical, telecommunications)
- Overhead power lines and obstructions
- Adjacent activities and interface risks
- Weather conditions and environmental factors
- Emergency routes and assembly points

3. TASK STEPS, HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES

■ Control measures follow the Hierarchy of Controls per WHS Reg 2011, Reg 36: Elimination → Substitution → Engineering → Administrative → PPE. Risk ratings use a 5×5 matrix aligned with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

The full document contains task-by-task hazards, risk ratings, and prescribed control measures. To protect document IP, this sample shows the structural depth only. Summary of what the full document contains:

Document Structure	Count
Task steps documented	5
Hazards identified across all steps	7
Control measures specified	21
Hierarchy-of-control levels covered	Administrative, Engineering, PPE
PPE items with AS/NZS standard references	6
Australian Standards referenced	4

■ Every hazard is mapped to its initial risk rating, control measures across the hierarchy, and a residual risk rating after controls are applied

4. PPE REQUIREMENTS

■ Every PPE item references the specific Australian Standard it must comply with — not just generic PPE categories

PPE Item	Australian Standard	Required
Hard hat	AS/NZS 1801	Yes
Safety footwear / rubber boots	AS/NZS 2210.3	Yes
Waterproof gloves	AS/NZS 2161.3	Yes
Face shield	AS/NZS 1337.1	Yes
Personal 4-gas monitor	AS/NZS 60079.29.1	Yes
Hi-vis clothing	AS/NZS 4602.1	Yes

5. REQUIRED LICENCES & COMPETENCIES

- Construction Induction Card (White Card) — required for all construction work under WHS Reg s.317; recognised in all states and territories
- Excavation competency and underground service location (Before You Dig Australia enquiry) prior to ground disturbance
- Confined space entry training and atmospheric (gas) testing competency — WHS Reg Part 4.3
- Plumber's licence issued by your state or territory regulator
- Gasfitting licence issued by your state or territory regulator for work on gas mains or piping
- Verify current licence and competency requirements with your state or territory WHS regulator before commencing work.

6. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & PLANT

- Excavator
- Crane or excavator with lifting attachment
- Vacuum truck
- 4-gas detector
- Dewatering pump
- Pipe cutter
- Compaction equipment
- Laser level

All equipment must be inspected before use. Defective equipment must not be used.

7. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

■ This section auto-populates with your state's specific WHS/OHS legislation. ACT shown here — Victoria references OHS Act 2004 Reg 327, Western Australia references the WHS Act 2020. All 8 states and territories are supported.

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)

Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (ACT)

SWMS required under: s.299

Regulator: WorkSafe ACT

- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 306 — excavation work
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 50 — hazardous atmospheres
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 66 — confined spaces

Applicable Australian Standards:

- AS/NZS 1547 — On-site domestic wastewater management
- AS/NZS 3500.2 — Plumbing and drainage — Sanitary plumbing and drainage
- AS/NZS 2865 — Confined spaces
- AS/NZS 4602.1 — High visibility safety garments

8. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Services:	000
Site Supervisor:	[Enter name and phone]
First Aid Officer:	[Enter name and phone]

Nearest Hospital:	[Enter hospital name and address]
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In the event of an emergency: Stop work immediately. Secure the area. Call 000 if required. Administer first aid. Notify site supervisor. Do not resume work until authorised.

9. WORKER SIGN-OFF

■ Satisfies WHS Reg 2011 s.299(c) — workers must be able to access the SWMS and confirm understanding before high-risk construction work commences

I have read, understood, and agree to comply with this Safe Work Method Statement. I understand the hazards and control measures and will follow the procedures outlined.

Name (Print)	Signature	Date	Company

10. MONITORING & REVIEW PROCEDURES

Control measures outlined in this SWMS must be monitored to ensure they remain effective. The following monitoring arrangements apply:

Monitoring Responsibility:	Site Supervisor / PCBU representative
Monitoring Frequency:	Before each shift, during work activities, at completion
Review Triggers:	Incident, near-miss, change in conditions, new worker, change in scope
Worker Consultation:	Toolbox talk before commencing HRCW; workers to report issues immediately

11. REVIEW LOG

Review Date	Reviewed By	Changes Made	Approved By
18 July 2026	[Reviewer Name]	Initial issue	[Approver Name]

■ Record-keeping obligation under WHS Regulation s.303 — SWMS must be retained until work is completed, or 2 years after a notifiable incident

RECORD KEEPING: Under WHS Regulation s.303, this SWMS must be kept until the work is completed. If a notifiable incident occurs, the SWMS must be retained for at least 2 years from the date of the incident.

SAMPLE DOCUMENT — Get your own trade-specific, editable SWMS at [getsiteready.com.au](https://www.getsiteready.com.au)