

Clevedon water and wastewater network Next steps – Information Sheet



August 2020

Next steps Information Sheet

This document is a guide to the next steps of the connection process and questions and answers for those interested in making a connection to the Clevedon network.

Contact a plumber/drainlayer

- The first step is to contact a registered plumber and drainlayer to obtain a quote for the works required on your property to enable you to connect to the Clevedon network.
- The Building Act requires that all private work be carried out by licensed practitioners.

Tip 1

You can either connect to both the water and wastewater network or alternatively just to the wastewater network. Watercare does not allow a water connection to be made to a property that continues to be serviced by an onsite septic system.

Tip 2

We are unable to recommend specific plumbers or drainlayers. You can search for a registered plumber and drainlayer by visiting local directories, or searching online. Contractor certification can be checked by asking to see their practice licence or by searching the public register at <https://www.pgdb.co.nz/>

Plumber/drainlayer site visit

- Next you should organise to meet your plumber/drainlayer at your property to discuss making a connection to the public network and decommissioning your water and/or wastewater system.
- You or your plumber/drainlayer can contact Watercare for indicative plan details for wastewater pit locations and the watermain location.
- If you would like, a Watercare field engineer can meet with your plumber/drainlayer.

Obtain a quote

- The next step is to obtain a quote for works from your plumber and drainlayer for internal works associated with your connection.
- You may wish to obtain a few quotes from local contractors for your work.
- You should request that the plumber or drainlayer draw up a drainage plan showing the existing and proposed works required to make the connection.

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Consider costs

- You can then consider all the relevant costs and make a decision whether to proceed with the connection. The following table may help you consolidate the costs for further assessment.

Description	Estimate	Where to find information
Watercare connection costs	\$	Refer to Watercare Clevedon Q & As November 2019 for a breakdown of connection charges
Building consent	\$	Refer to Auckland Council – Applying for a building consent
Private drainage works <i>(include decommissioning costs of septic tank)</i>	\$	Refer to plumber and drain layers estimate for works
Miscellaneous costs/ contingency	\$	Consider a 10 to 15 per cent contingency
Total estimated cost of a water and/or wastewater connection.	\$	

Plans

- If you decide to proceed with a connection, submit your property drainage plan to us at clevedonnetwork@water.co.nz so we can check that it is suitable for connecting to the network.
- Your plan needs to be to scale, include a 'north arrow', show the private wastewater lateral to the vacuum pit, pit reference number, private pump location (if required), and your preferred water metre location.
- We will get in touch with you once the plans have been reviewed and if required arrange a site visit to discuss details of the connection.

Submit application to Watercare

- Next you need to complete a Watercare application for a water and/or wastewater connection.
- Applications can be found at <https://www.watercare.co.nz/Water-and-wastewater/Building-and-developing/Connect-your-property>
- You will need to send us the completed application form and site plan.

Watercare quote

- You will receive a quote from Watercare detailing Watercare connection charges. Accepting this quote will trigger an invoice for Watercare connection charges.

Apply to council for building consent

- Once Watercare has confirmed that the drainage plan will enable connection to the network, you will need to submit the plans to Auckland Council for building consent.
- A building consent is required for all changes made to private drainage networks. This information is lodged on your property file and provides you and future property owners with details and certification of the work undertaken. Auckland Council's building control team is aware of the Clevedon connections and will process the relevant information according to statutory timeframes. For further details on applying for a building consent go to: [Auckland Council – Applying for a building consent](#)

Plumbing drainage works

- You can then proceed with completing all internal drainage and plumbing works as required and consented.

Network connection

- Watercare will complete all necessary work on the public network to enable your connection upon full payment of your invoice.

Tip 3

Connection applications will be processed by Watercare as they are received. A range of factors including availability of plumbers and drainlayers and Council consent processing timeframes may affect the timing of when the connection for your property can be made.

- Once your water meter is installed your plumber can connect to the water meter and your drainlayer can connect to the specified vacuum pit.

Tip 4

For wastewater connections your drainlayer must apply to Watercare for network authorisation to complete your connection.

Questions and answers

When will connections be available?

Connections are expected to be available from end of March 2021.

Private wastewater network

Do I have to decommission my septic tank?

Your onsite wastewater system will need to be cleaned out and decommissioned as a requirement of your building consent. Once empty the septic system can be either removed or treated with lime and backfilled. This work should be included in your plumbing estimate. In some cases the clean septic system may be able to be used for onsite stormwater management. You can discuss this with your plumber / drain layer and Auckland Council.

Will I need to install a wastewater pump?

The wastewater vacuum pit for most properties will be able to be connected to via a gravity pipeline from the house. There may be some situations where a pump is required. This should be identified by your plumber or drain layer and included in your estimate.

Private water network

Can I just connect to the water network only without connecting to the wastewater network?

No. Watercare does not allow water connections without a Watercare wastewater connection.

I currently have a water rain tank. What are my options for connecting to the water network?

There are several options available:

1. Connect to the public water network and decommission your rain tank(s). This often frees up additional property space.
2. Connect to the public water network and retain the rain tank on separate pipeline for garden watering purposes. For this option, the rain tank must be on a separate isolated plumbing system.
3. Connect to the public water supply and use it to top up your rain tank. You will require an additional rain tank meter to ensure that wastewater is calculated correctly.

Note: If no public water connection is made then wastewater charges for the public network use are based on a simple fixed user charge.

What happens to my stormwater if I no longer have a rain tank?

When full, rain tanks provide little in the way of stormwater attenuation and water will overflow to ground. Rain tanks can be left and used for stormwater attenuation if required or stormwater can be directed to the ground. You can talk with your plumber and drainlayer as well as Auckland Council if further onsite stormwater management work is proposed.

Is a payment scheme available?

Council has proposed a payment scheme which can be accessed at the time of payment. This payment scheme is currently subject to public consultation.

Please refer to <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/>

A final decision on whether the payment scheme will be available is expected in June 2020.

Under the proposed scheme, you would be able to borrow money to use towards the connection. This includes both the Watercare charges and the costs of the works done by your plumber or drainlayer. The loan will be registered against your property and paid back over time along with council rates. This scheme is separate to Watercare user charges and will be administered by Council. Interest, administration charges will be included for those taking up this scheme. Further information will be communicated by Council in line with their final decision to proceed with the proposed scheme.

Ongoing costs

Water and wastewater is typically charged based on volumes used. There are different rates for domestic and non-domestic customers. Domestic charges as at July 2019 are:

- Residential customers that connect to the water and wastewater network
 - Volumetric water charge: \$1.555 per 1,000 litres, including GST
- Fixed charge per meter: \$225 per year, including GST
 - Volumetric wastewater charge: \$2.704 per 1,000 litres, including GST. Domestic wastewater volume is calculated at 78.5% of the incoming water volume, as measured at the water meter. This assumes that on average 78.5% of the water that enters the home goes down the drain via showers, baths, washing machines, dishwashers toilets, sinks etc.
- Residential customers that connect to the wastewater network and do not have a water meter.
 - Fixed charge of \$690 per year, including GST
 - You have the option of installing a rain tank meter and being charged for wastewater on a volumetric basis.

For more information, please refer to the links below:

Domestic charges:

https://wslpwstoreprd.blob.core.windows.net/kentico-media-libraries-prod/watercarepublicweb/media/watercare-media-library/fees-charges/domestic_charges.pdf

Non-domestic charges:

https://wslpwstoreprd.blob.core.windows.net/kentico-media-libraries-prod/watercarepublicweb/media/watercare-media-library/fees-charges/non_domestic_charges.pdf

Need further information?



Go to our web page www.watercare.co.nz and search for 'Clevedon' to get to the project web page.



Contact us via email: clevedonnetwork@water.co.nz