

Individual Septic Tank Owners Required to Desludge and Care for Their Septic Tanks

Kuala Lumpur: In response to the article on Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia's (AWER) on Indah Water Konsortium's (IWK) sewerage charges and ownership of septic tanks in China Press recently, IWK would like to provide some facts based on the matter raised.

There are mainly three types of sewerage system in Malaysia: the connected system where the household's sewerage are connected to IWK's plants via underground pipelines. IWK operates and maintains the 6,745 sewage treatment plants (STP) and 19,134km network of sewage pipelines.

The second systems are those owned by the homeowners such as individual septic tanks (IST). According to the Water Services Industry Act 2006 (Act 655) under 65 (1)(c), individual septic tank owners are required to desludge and care for their septic tanks. This indicates that the owners are directly responsible for their septic tanks.

The third system is the communal septic tanks (CST) that service more than one premise. This type of system is a joint responsibility of the owners or occupiers of those premises irrespective of the location of the septic tank. Also, there are some other systems like pour flushes. While the responsibility of maintaining ISTs and CSTs are not by IWK, we provide the services upon request.

As for costing, IWK has been charging the same tariff of RM2 to RM8 for households with connected systems in areas where IWK operates, since our inception in 1994. On the other hand, charges for desludging ISTs and CSTs differ according to the size of the septic tanks.

Premises with a proper individual septic tank has 3 to 4 rectangular metal covers and is usually located outside the premises compound either at the side, rear or front. The septic tank only provides partial treatment of the sewage that flows into it and needs to be desludged on a regular basis, approximately once in two years, to ensure that it functions efficiently. Septic tanks that are not desludged regularly can pose a threat to the surrounding environment.

For more information and reference to the prices that are charged by IWK, please visit: <https://www.iwk.com.my/customer/domestic/> <https://www.iwk.com.my/>.

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ABOUT US

Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (Indah Water), is a sewerage services company owned by Minister of Finance Incorporated, Malaysia. Indah Water is responsible for providing sewerage services, operating and maintaining more than 6,000 sewage treatment plants and 19,320km networks of sewerage pipelines serving 24.8 million Connected Population Equivalent (PE). Our expertise include Operations and Maintenance, Refurbishment, Planning & Policy Strategy, Engineering & Process Review, Project Planning, Project Management, EIA and HAZOP Studies, Training Services & Module Development, Research & Development, Capacity Building and Community Awareness & Education Program. IWK was awarded the Water Industry Achievement Award (Best Sewage Treatment Plant Award) by Malaysian Water Association in 2016, which further spurred our vision to become Asia's premier sewerage company. For more information on IWK, please visit our website at www.iwk.com.my.