

## Reedbeds - Horizontal Flow Systems



A reedbed is a passive biological system for treating sewage. There are two main types of reedbed used; horizontal flow and vertical flow.

Horizontal Flow (or Sub-Surface Flow) systems are typically made of washed gravels and stones. Effluent flows through the gravel from the inlet side to the opposite outlet side.

*We recommend the installation of horizontal flow reedbeds for all types of development including domestic, commercial and leisure sites.*

### FAQ's

#### *Do I require a septic tank?*

Yes, all reedbeds require either a septic tank or a package sewage treatment plant to provide pre-treatment to remove heavy solids from the sewage.

#### *Do horizontal flow reedbeds smell?*

No, a properly designed and installed horizontal flow reedbed will have the effluent level below the gravel surface and so they do not smell any worse than any other type of sewage treatment system.

#### *Our development is seasonal, will a reedbed cope?*

Yes, because they are a passive system horizontal flow reedbeds are the best type of system at accepting seasonal loadings from developments such as caravan parks, visitor centres and holiday homes.

#### *How long before the reedbed is established?*

It will take around 2 to 3 years from planting for the reeds to become fully established.



#### *Advantages of HF Reedbeds*

- Ideal for remote locations
- No moving parts
- Cannot break down
- Do not use electricity
- Low maintenance system
- They create wildlife habitat



*Horizontal Flow Reedbeds are good at reducing pollution and they can after a Package Sewage Treatment Plant achieve a final effluent quality of:*

- 10 mg/l Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)
- 10 mg/l Suspended Solids (SS)
- 10 mg/l Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)