

Underground Soakaways



Underground soakaways are normally the preferred method of effluent dispersal in the UK but only when soil conditions are suitable for their installation.

Effluent is dispersed via perforated pipes and porous media before slowly percolating into the soil below where some further biological treatment will occur.

We recommend the installation of underground soakaways that use recycled polystyrene materials thereby reducing the use and transport of quarried gravel and stones.

Design Criteria

Every site has unique soil and drainage characteristics. The suitability of a site for an underground soakaway is inherently determined by the soil type of the site.

An underground soakaway requires careful site assessment, good design and proper installation to ensure it functions correctly.

Site Assessment

Underground soakaways are only suitable for soils with good porosity i.e. freely draining sandy soils.

Percolation Testing

A percolation test must be carried out in order to determine the porosity rate of the soil so the surface area of the soakaway can be calculated. The soil porosity rate is the most important design variable and should be determined correctly.

Pre-Treatment

It is essential that an underground soakaway is preceded by a properly maintained septic tank or package sewage treatment plant to prevent solids entering the soakaway.



Advantages of Installing a Pre-Fabricated Soakaway

- Uses 100% recycled polystyrene so more sustainable
- Lightweight for transport and manual handling
- Easy to lay properly with minimum labour and plant
- Quicker to install than traditional gravel systems