

The Environment Section of Wicklow County Council administers **three types of Grants for Homeowners upgrading their septic tanks:**

- All three grant schemes cover **85% of the costs** associated with upgrade works but the grant will **not exceed €5,000**.
- Homeowners are only eligible for a grant if they registered their wastewater system within the legal timeframes:
 - Homeowners had to register their wastewater system with protectourwater.ie **by the 1st of February 2013**.
 - Homeowners installing septic tanks after 1st of February 2013 had to have register their systems **within 90 days of completing the connection of the premises to the system**.
- The grants only apply to the homeowners **primary residence** – not second homes or holiday homes.
- Original receipts are required for any works carried out and works can only be carried out by a **tax compliant contractor**.
- Grants do not apply to maintenance or de-sludging of wastewater systems.

Below are the three instances where a homeowner can apply for a grant under these schemes to upgrade their septic tank.

1. **Grants under the National Inspection Plan:** Applies to homeowners countywide who's wastewater treatment systems are inspected by the Council under the EPA's National Inspection Plan:
 - a. Homeowners cannot request an inspection because homes are selected based on EPA pollution risk maps of the County.
 - b. If you are selected for an inspection, you will be given 10 days notice of an inspection and provided with an info pack and what to expect.
 - c. A homeowner who fails the inspection will be issued an advisory notice listing the items to be corrected within a set timeframe.
 - d. Homeowners can apply to The Council for a grant to assist with costs associated with the upgrade provided the application includes a recommendation from a suitably qualified professional detailing the proposed upgrade to fix the fault.
2. **Grants in High Status Water Catchments:** Applies to homeowners living in River Catchments designated under the current National River Basin Management Plan for protecting or restoring the highest water quality:
 - a. Homeowners can use the link below to see if they live within a High Status River Catchment by typing their post code into the search box
<https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17278d05d48e4495a7c47c1bb5443ef5>
 - b. Homeowners living within a High Status River Catchments, once confirmed by The Council, can apply for a grant to upgrade faulty or malfunctioning domestic wastewater systems, provided the application includes a recommendation from a suitably qualified professional detailing the fault and the proposed upgrade to fix the fault.
 - c. It is the homeowners responsibility to check if planning permission is required for any upgrade works.
 - d. Where the total cost of the upgrade is less than €750, no grant is payable

3. **Grants in Priority Areas for Action:** Applies to homeowners living in River Catchments designated as priority areas for investigating water quality issues under the current National River Basin Management Plan:
 - a. Homeowners identified as having domestic wastewater systems that potentially cause a risk to water as a result of catchment investigations in these areas will be given a referral letter inviting them to apply to The Council for a grant to upgrade their system.
 - b. Homeowners can then apply for a grant to the Council to upgrade faulty or malfunctioning domestic wastewater systems, provided the application includes a recommendation from a suitably qualified professional detailing the fault and the proposed upgrade to fix the fault.
 - c. It is the homeowners responsibility to check if planning permission is required for any upgrade works
 - d. Where the total cost of the upgrade is less than €750, no grant is payable

If none of these circumstances apply to you but your septic tank system is malfunctioning you should contact an engineering company or a company that specialises in domestic wastewater systems to have the system assessed and recommend corrective action. There is no grant available for any upgrade works carried out and it is the homeowners responsibility to check if planning permission is required for any upgrade works.