



# Technical Guidance

Field drainage systems to septic tanks and small private sewage treatment plants

## Question

Are coiled flexible internally ribbed plastic land drains suitable for use in the field drainage from a septic tank or a small private sewage treatment plant?

## Considerations

- NHBC Standards chapter 5.3 – D8(e) refers to field drains for the disposal of the discharge from septic tanks.
- Small solid particles in the discharge from septic tanks and treatment plants can over time accumulate on ribbed pipe surfaces and cause blockages.
- Pipes should be laid to a uniform gradient. Dips in flexible pipes can cause settlement of solid particles and potential blockages.
- Manufacturers of septic tanks and small treatment plants do not recommend the use of flexible plastic land drains to form the drainage field from their units.

## Answer

The field drain from a septic tank or small private sewage treatment plant should be formed with rigid perforated pipes (rigid plastic or clay) having a smooth inner surface. Pipes should be laid to uniform falls.

Coiled ribbed plastic land drains are not suitable for this purpose.