



EMPTYING OF PIT LATRINES



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There are over 100 000 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines in the eThekweni municipality. It is estimated that about 10 000 per year will need to be emptied on a continuous basis.

A study is being undertaken with partial funding from the Water Research Commission to develop an understanding of the sludge accumulation in VIPs and strategies to manage desludging in the future when the pits are full. The research will establish how many VIPs in the future will require some form of intervention to sustain their use. It will also look at finding more affordable and easier ways of desludging VIPs when they are full. The study aims to cover the following:

- consolidating knowledge on sludge build up and intervention strategies
- auditing and establishing how many pits are reaching their operational lifespan and determining the conditions thereof
- determining sludge build-up in VIPs over their life span through field investigations
- developing new technologies, strategies and processes to manage desludging and their safe disposal. This must include safe treatment and disposal, as well comparative costing of all options.
- determining how to desludge full pits and safely treat and manage the contents.



It will cover all aspects relating to the methods of desludging pits (technical/manual), management and treatment of sludges and economics thereof, international and local experiences, as well as determining innovative techniques.