



Lifestyle Living

In Broad Terms
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Internet/Phone/Mobile Phone Coverage

Obtaining good speed and reliable coverage for internet, telephone and mobile phones tends to be more difficult in rural areas. There are a number of websites that may assist in determining whether a property is "likely" to be able to provide these services:

Internet/Phone

- www.2degrees.nz/coverage/
- www.chorus.co.nz/broadband
- www.compass.net.nz/signup/
- www.farmside.co.nz
- www.one.nz/broadband/internet-plans/
- www.spark.co.nz/shop/internet/
- www.starlink.com
- www.vodafone.co.nz/broadband/rural/
- www.stratanet.co.nz/our-services/rural-internet/rural-coverage-map/
- <https://broadbandmap.nz/>

Mobile Phone

- www.2degrees.nz/coverage/
- www.one.nz/network/coverage/
- www.spark.co.nz/coverage/

Septic Tanks

A conventional septic tank consists of two basic parts - a tank and an underground disposal field which is also called a drainage field or a leach field.

Wastewater flows from the house to the tank and effluent (the wastewater minus the solids) flows from the tank to the drainage field. Of the wastewater that goes into the septic tank, the heavier solids settle to the bottom of the tank, while the lighter solids float to the top.

The main job of the tank is to intercept the solids, and the main job of the drainage field is that the soil filters and purifies the effluent which then returns to the water table and is taken up by plants and/or is evaporated.

The traditional septic tank usually has a mushroom above the ground (unless taken out by the mower) and will usually have an inspection hatch that is buried. Other systems include the Jet Stream system, Bio-Cycle/Oasis system, and the Reflection Treatment system.

You should get the professionals in to clean your septic tank out every 3 years. Leaving it longer could mean blockages could occur as the tank becomes overfull.

If you want to keep your septic tank in good working order between scheduled cleans, don't overload your tank with too much wastewater and don't put chemicals, grease or oils, or anything too bulky into the system.

Budgetary costs

- Cleaning \$750
- New Septic Tank System \$18,000-\$25,000

Water

Rainwater is collected from your roof and stored in a tank until you need it. It can be collected rainwater for:

- flushing your toilet and doing your laundry;
- other household uses such as drinking, bathing and using in the kitchen (should ideally be treated or purified);
- watering your garden;
- supplying stock.

The size and number of the tank(s) needed depends on:

- how many people in the house and how long each person is home each day;
- how large the roof catchment is (smaller roofs take longer to fill tank(s) and therefore require longer periods of rain and/or heavier rain);
- how big the property is - a large garden will need more water
- whether the water is also supplying stock and the stocking levels;
- how much security of supply you require;
- on rainfall, both amount and regularity;
- on anything else that you intend to use the water for.

For indoor supply if rainwater is the sole source of water at least a 30,000 litre rainwater tank will be required.

Budgetary costs

- 30,000 litre tank and pump \$5,000
- Truck load of water (12,000 litres) \$300

Note: If you have no power you will have no water as the water pump requires power to function.

Water usage in litres per day

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| • Person | 180 |
| • Milking cow | 30 - 70 |
| • Dry beef stock | 30 - 55 |
| • Sheep | 3 - 12 |
| • Pig | 10 - 35 |
| • Horse - Small - Large | 15 - 70 |
| • Goat | 4 - 10 |
| • Deer | 6 - 12 |

Land Requirements by Stock Type / Stocking Levels

How many stock can the block carry? This is not an easy question to answer. This is because the feed supply varies from day to day in quality and quantity, and so do the nutritional needs of the stock. The old method (still in use on sheep and beef farms) is to use Livestock Units (LSU) or Ewe Equivalents (EE). The idea here is to have these standards against which all other classes of stock can be compared.

The carrying capacity is basically how many stock (LSU) can be feed during the winter. This is when pasture growth is slowest, and when stock will be feeding offspring so only require "maintenance" feed.

The table below shows how to convert different classes of stock to LSU/EE. NOTE. This tables DOES NOT show how many LSU can be run on any particular block. This depends on all sorts of things like soil, rainfall, soil fertility and so on.

The best option is to discuss with a neighbour what they are running. Then it's a trial and error exercise - and this will depend greatly on the type of season.

The key to avoiding problems is always to have a contingency plan:

- Have hay in the barn;
- Have wrapped or pit silage;
- Buy some maize silage;
- Keep some deferred pasture (standing hay or pasture not eaten);
- Graze some stock off the property;
- Sell some stock before the feed shortage;

	LSU	Low no. per/ha	Avg no. per/ha	High no. per/ha
Sheep	1.0	4.9	8.6	12.4
Weaner Calf	3.5	1.4	2.5	3.5
Cow/Beef	5.0	1.0	1.7	2.5
Pony	6.0	0.8	1.4	2.1
Horse < 15.2 hands	8.0	0.6	1.1	1.5
Horse > 15.2 hands	12.0	0.4	0.7	1.0

Note:

- Lactating/Animals feeding Offspring require significantly more feed

Disclaimer: This information is not intended to be a definitive guide.



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Commission rate 2.75%
for first \$500,000 then 1.75%
plus **FREE marketing** (conditions apply)

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