



News Letter July 2020

Biomite system

After receiving a number of queries and complaints from residents regarding the correct use of the Calcamite Bio-Mite sewerage systems installed at some of the homes, we deemed it necessary to include relevant information on the system, its functioning, maintenance and use.

HOW DOES THE BIOMITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT WORK?

- The overall objective of the Bio-Mite Waste Water Treatment Plant is to provide a Waste Water Treatment System that is capable of coping with a wide range of probable Waste Water conditions while complying with the overall performance requirements which is to meet or exceed the General Standard of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF).
- The Bio-mite Process cleans domestic waste water in three basic steps:
 1. Anaerobic Digestion,
 2. Aerobic Digestion and
 3. Disinfection.
- The Anaerobic section reduces the BOD loading of the waste stream by about 40% and provides a suitable buffer/ retention time for complete treatment. Here we utilize SABS approved multi chambered Septic tanks.
- The Aerobic section further reduced the BOD loading and reduces Nutrients (mainly Nitrates and Nitrites from the waste stream.
- Lastly the Disinfection process kills any remaining Pathogens in the Waste Stream to provide a clarified effluent ready for any non-potable reuse options such as irrigation, car washing and dust control.
- The Bio-Mite plant can be configured for above or below ground installation.

Correct use of the system

The Bio-Mite system relies on the Biomass / bacteria to treat the waste stream. Do not introduce any harmful substances into the system that could kill or harm the Biomass bacteria. A reduction in the Biomass and or hydraulic overloading (water leaks) will result in the incomplete treatment of the waste stream. As a rule of thumb harmful substances consist of any substances that are harmful to humans, animals and plants. Avoid anti-bacterial substances (i.e. Kills 99% of germs!!) should not be used to clean toilets. Use soaps with enzymes.

Never introduce the following:

- Substances that are not biodegradable such as plastic, condoms, sanitary towels, nappies as these will collect and fill the primary tank reducing retention time.

- Hydro-carbons such as motor oil, petrol, paint, and or paint thinners.
- Toxic substances such as pesticides, strong disinfectants (Jeyes Blue) and drain cleaners.
- Large amount of ammonia based cleaners (Handy Andy) or bleach.
- Large amounts of paper kitchen towels or synthetic fibre-reinforced based products.
- Bath / tile cleaning products which “kill 99% of germs” (germs = bacteria)
- Liquid fabric softeners.
- Commercial laundry chemicals as required by law of hotels.
- Chemicals such as herbicide, pesticide or pool acid.
- Never backwash swimming pool water into the system (high chlorine content).

The following may be introduced in limited quantities:

- Toilet bowl cleaner such as “toilet duck” (Ortho-phenyl phenol based).
- Automatic dishwasher detergents
- General household cleaners
- Anti-Bacterial hand soap (only for washing hands and in small quantities).

The following substance may be used regularly:

- Dishwasher detergents without bleach. (E.g. Green Sunlight liquid).
- Laundry detergents without bleach.
- Toilet paper.
- General household cleaners containing sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate and sodium borate.
- Most products indicate whether or not they are safe for use in septic tanks
- We recommend the green dishwasher soaps and enzyme based washing powders be used to clean toilet bowls. This is done by adding some powder into a bucket of water and using a toilet brush to clean the toilet pan. Leave the brush in the bowl and flush water out, cleaning toilet and brush together.
- Food garbage disposal units are not recommended for this system. Compost all food scraps if possible. Left-over food should be scraped into a waste bin before rinsing plates off. A grease trap is recommended between the kitchen and the Bio-Mite system.
- Probiotic products such as “Probac” are encouraged.
- Check the label on the product and see if it is bio-friendly and septic tank friendly.

Below please find a link to the Biomite manual should you have any further queries:

<https://calcamite.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Biomite-Manual.pdf>

Baboon incursion

Below please find a letter received from a resident regarding a baboon incursion at their house. It is always good to hear the positives as well.

Dear Association Management,

We had an incursion by baboons at RV52 yesterday. It was our fault leaving a sliding door unlocked.

We did however leave the alarm on and we received a call from Canyon Risk who then sent two security guards to investigate. We made our way home quickly to find the two guards

looking after our property.

I was so impressed with the security company from the control room to the guards who went out of their way to help.

Thankfully we lost only the contents of the fruit bowl and one drawer of the fridge. Without Canyon Risk the damage does not bear thinking about.

I hope this will encourage people to use the alarm system and respect our helpful and alert security guards.

Sincerely

Mike Kendrick

There have been a number of incidents of baboons raiding dustbins recently. We request that all residents make sure that their dustbins are in a cage, or at least fitted with baboon-proof locks.

We also request that residents do not leave food in an area which may be visible from the outside. If the baboons can see it they will go to extraordinary measures to get at it.

Please contact management should you be experiencing baboon problems.

Giraffe DNA sampling

We were contacted by Joel Alves, one of the local game capturers and also veterinarian, regarding a research project in collaboration with the Giraffe Conservation Project.

Previously, South Africa's giraffe were all assumed to be South African giraffe; however a host of translocations from Namibia and recent studies in the Free State show that some giraffe are Angolan and hybrids occur. Therefore, in light of this it is likely a mix of giraffe exists throughout other areas in the country.

While they have already sampled in various parts of Southern Africa, they have never undertaken a countrywide assessment in South Africa.

On 15 July DNA samples were taken from three giraffe on the estate. This involved darting the giraffe with a drop-dart fired from a dart-gun that removes a 2mm piece of skin that is preserved and then sent for analysis. This sampling technique does not involve any drugs, any immobilisation and causes very little stress for the giraffe.

All analysis results will be shared and our participation will be acknowledged.

Website development

The communications sub-committee is currently undertaking the development of a "new and improved" website for the estate, making it more user-friendly and eye-catching, with information to be updated regularly.

Update on continuation of Road refurbishment

The road refurbishment project is progressing well, and the appointed contractor has already completed the section from the main gate to the water reservoirs.

Work will continue up to the entrance of stand RV 137 and then again from RV 53 up to Bataleur Road.

I am sure that all residents would agree that the new surface is a vast improvement on the unsurfaced and degraded road which previously existed.

We request that residents please exercise a little patience at the stop/go areas, as the flagmen have to accommodate vehicles from both sides as well as the large trucks delivering and levelling the material.

Camera trap survey

Jeremy Bolton is once again conducting a camera trap survey on the estate, with the intention of capturing images which can assist with the positive identification of wildlife species occurring on the estate. This is a repeat of the survey done in 2017.

Camera-trap surveys like this provide an interesting 'snapshot' of mammal activity on the estate. They can obviously give a confirmation of the presence of a mammal on the estate and, if run for long enough, may suggest the absence of a species. However a single survey reveals little about the abundance of herd species unless the photographs are reviewed in detail and herd sizes are estimated.

However, if surveys like this are repeated then one can start getting an idea of whether numbers, as well as diversity, are increasing or not. Even with repeated surveys the results can be influenced by seasonal or climatic factors.

Raptor's View is fortunate in that it has an impressive diversity of species. It is very possible that a few more nocturnal and cryptic species could be added to this list if regular surveys are conducted.

Locations for cameras will be chosen with the intention of covering all habitats on the estate. No cameras will be set up facing houses or other private spaces so as to respect privacy. However when covering trails or the fences it is unfortunately, not possible to avoid getting images of walkers, cyclists or estate staff.

If residents who have camera traps on their properties wish to participate in the survey they are requested to contact Jeremy. One can never have too many cameras in a survey like this.

Jeremy Bolton jeremy@bushcamconsulting.com

Etiquette on the trails

Residents making use of the trails on the estate are requested to please be mindful that there are cyclists and walkers making use of the trails. Please also be mindful that we stay in a wildlife estate, and the trails sometimes pass fairly close to houses – noise should be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing wildlife and also respect for other residents privacy.

Security alert

Following two break-ins on one of our neighbouring estates, we request that residents remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to management or security as soon as possible. The quicker we receive the information, the faster we can react and the sooner we can prevent an incident.

Parcel delivery at the main gate

The security guards at the main gate take delivery of packages from numerous courier and delivery companies, as we do not allow delivery directly to the stands for security reasons. Residents are then contacted by security and informed that there is a parcel at the gate for collection.

We request that you collect your package as soon as possible, as there are times when there is barely space to move in the guard room. This is not only an additional risk on the security guards to keep an eye on each parcel, but also a risk for the owner should a parcel being misplaced.

Please note that grocery deliveries will not be accepted at the gate. There was an incident recently where monkeys discovered a packet with fresh vegetables and proceeded in destroying the contents. Please have your delivery company/person advise you as to what time they will be at the gate for delivery so that you can take receipt of your groceries.

Important Contact numbers

Estate Management (emergencies only)	-	071 675 2525
RV main gate	-	015 793 1663
Canyon Risk Solutions	-	071 218 1994
Medical	-	072 170 0864
Police	-	015 799 4000
Fire Brigade Maruleng	-	015 793 0536