

Septic System Care

Household Practices

Keep solids, toxics, oils and grease out of the drain

- ✗ Fats, oils, grease
- ✗ Harsh chemicals or cleaners, liquid drain de-cloggers, paint thinner, excessive bleach
- ✗ Exceeding the label's recommended amount of detergent
- ✗ Bath oils, excessive soaps
- ✗ Old Medications
- ✗ Kitchen scraps, coffee grinds, avoid garbage disposal use
- ✗ Floss, hair, feminine products, condoms, kitty litter
- ✗ Baby wipes, tissue, paper towels, excessive toilet paper

Reduce and control water usage

- ✓ Space loads of laundry throughout the week
- ✓ Fix leaking sinks and toilets
- ✓ Use high-efficiency washers, low-flow toilets and showerheads if possible
- ✗ Don't drain hot tubs into septic tank or onto the drainfield

The Septic Tank

Perform tank pumping and maintenance

- ✓ Have a state-licensed or Health District-certified service provider inspect your tank at least every three years—some systems require more frequent inspection
- ✓ Learn your system type and maintenance schedule
- ✓ Have your system pumped approximately every three years based on your inspector's recommendation
- ✓ Clean outlet screen yearly (if your tank has one)
- ✓ Keep inspection and maintenance records
- ✗ Additives to “boost function” are not recommended

The Drainfield

Protect your drainfield and reserve areas

- ✗ No structures, parking, livestock, roof drainage or runoff near the drainfield
- ✗ No irrigation or sprinkler systems near the drainfield
- ✓ Plant only grass or shallow-rooted plants
- ✓ Call Snohomish Health District for a map of your drainfield

Regularly inspect your drainfield

- ✓ Check for odors, wet spots, or surfacing sewage
- ✓ If your drainfield has monitoring ports, check them every few weeks; ports that continually contain over six inches of water could indicate a problem



Have a problem? We're here to help:
SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT 425-339-5250

Puget Sound
Starts Here
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