Septic System Care

Household Practices

- Keep solids, toxins, 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

- 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

www.pugetsoundstartshere.septic.org