

Build Smart

Don't build, pave or keep anything heavy on your drainfield.

Heavy things, like buildings, pavement, cars and even livestock, compact soil and can crush and damage pipes. Compacted soil prevents airflow, which is necessary for sewage dispersal and treatment.

Place drains with care.

- Storm and surface water drains can redirect sewage from your septic system and contaminate other areas.
- Check with the Health Department if you plan to put any type of drain or retaining wall within 30 feet of your septic system.

Keep extra water out.

- Direct rainwater away from your drainfield.
- Check where water from your downspouts, driveway and patio goes.
- Don't drain water from hot tubs or pools onto your drainfield.

Keep a reserve space.

Eventually, all drainfields need replacement. Plan a reserve area to put in a new drainfield and treat it the same as your current one. Protecting your reserve area will ensure healthy soil for your replacement drainfield.

Have questions? Contact us!

(253) 649-1925

EHSepticSystems@tpchd.org
tpchd.org/septic

3629 S. D St., MS 1035
Tacoma, WA 98418

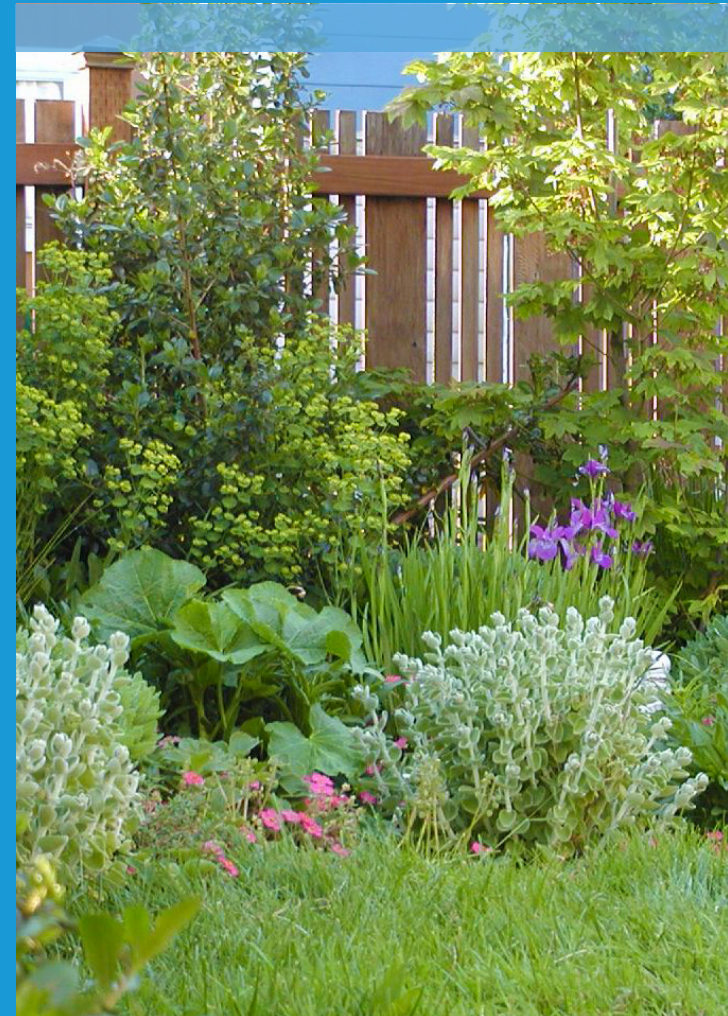
Additional resources:

EPA SepticSmart Homeowners
epa.gov/septic/septic-smart-homeowners

Northwest Native Plant Guide
kingcounty.gov/gonative

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How to Plant and Build Around Your Drainfield



What is a Drainfield?

A drainfield is an essential part of your septic system. The drainfield disperses sewage into the soil. The soil treats the sewage before it enters the groundwater. Protect your drainfield by making smart building and landscaping decisions. A healthy drainfield keeps your family safe and water clean.

Plant Smart

How to landscape your drainfield.

Select low-maintenance plants with shallow roots that don't require much water, such as the plant selections illustrated in this brochure. Never plant trees in or within 30 feet of your drainfield, and never plant shrubs and vegetables over your drainfield.

Choose native and drought-resistance plants.

- Low-maintenance plants with shallow roots and low water needs are best.
- Maintaining plants disturbs the soil.
- Watering plants regularly adds extra water.
- The less work your plants need, the better.

Keep plants over the drainfield short.
Only use tall plants in the reserve area.

Illustration Key

