Septic Safety for Homeowners

Septic system care begins with you

Regular maintenance and safety measures help keep septic systems safe and protect the environment. Follow these safety guidelines to keep your system safe and working properly.

Know your septic system location.

If don't know your septic system and drainfield location, contact us at (253) 649-1425 or visit edocs.tpchd.org to locate your property’s record drawing. This information helps avoid:

- Children and pets from playing around the septic tank lid(s).
- Construction of structures over the drainfield.
- Cars and heavy equipment parked on your drainfield.

Walk your property routinely. Observe potential safety or health risks, and take steps to address them.

- Check the drainfield and down slope areas for broken equipment, holes, odors, wet spots or surfacing sewage.
- Exposure to bacteria can cause a health risk to people, pets and the environment.

Make sure your septic tank lid(s) properly cover the opening and are secure and durable.

- Check for damages and cracks. Prevent injuries and falls into the tank.

Teach children not to play around septic tank lids or on the drainfield.

- Kids or pets can be seriously injured from falls into or around the tank.
- Exposure to bacteria can cause health risks.

Have your system inspected regularly by a certified septic professional.

- The inspection will ensure your system operates properly and let you know if your tank needs to be pumped.
- View a list of certified septic professionals at tpchd.org/septicservicecompanies.

Inspections help:

- Protect ground, surface and drinking water from contamination.
- Prevent bacterial pollution from entering Puget Sound directly or through storm water run-off into creeks and streams.
- Keep shellfish harvested from public waters safe to eat.