

# Septic System Safety

Regular maintenance and safety measures help keep septic systems safe and environmentally friendly. Follow the safety guidelines below — and visit [http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/Environment/septic\\_safety.php](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/Environment/septic_safety.php) for more information about how you can keep your system running safely and properly and protecting your investment!

- **Know where your septic system is located.** If you're unsure of where your septic system and drain field are visit <https://www.kitsappublichealth.org/irecordsearch/> to locate your property's record drawing. Knowing this information is important because you can avoid:
  - Children and pets from playing around the septic tank lid(s).
  - Construction of structures over the drain field.
  - Cars and heavy equipment parked on your drain field.
- **Walk your property routinely to observe potential safety or health risks and take steps to address them.** Check the drain field 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 and make sure the lid is securely fastened to prevent injuries and falls into the tank. Lids can become brittle from the sun and weather and should be replaced if damaged.
- **Instruct children not to play around septic tank lids or in the drain field.** Kids are naturally curious and love to explore outdoors. But playing around the septic tank or trying to open the lid can be dangerous. Kids or pets can be seriously injured from falls into or around the tank, and exposure to bacteria can cause health risks.
- **Have your system inspected regularly by a septic service professional certified by the Kitsap Public Health District.** The inspection will ensure proper system operation and let you know if pumping is needed. A list of certified septic service professionals can be found at [http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/certified\\_contractors](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/certified_contractors).  
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.
  - Identify problems early which can prevent injuries and/or expensive repairs.



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## Helpful Resources

- [Homeowners guide to on-site sewage systems](#)
- [Landscaping your septic drainfield](#)
- [Repairing your septic system](#)

**Contact the Kitsap Public Health District with questions or for assistance!**