



## Your Living Septic System

### What is a septic system?

Septic systems are underground wastewater treatment systems that homeowners own and operate, which are common in areas without centralized sewer systems. Septic systems use a combination of nature and time-tested technology to treat wastewater produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry. Newer septic systems can use special technologies to make water very clean before it goes into your yard and our environment.

Septic system design and size can vary widely due to a combination of factors, including household size, soil type, site slope, lot size, and proximity to sensitive water bodies.

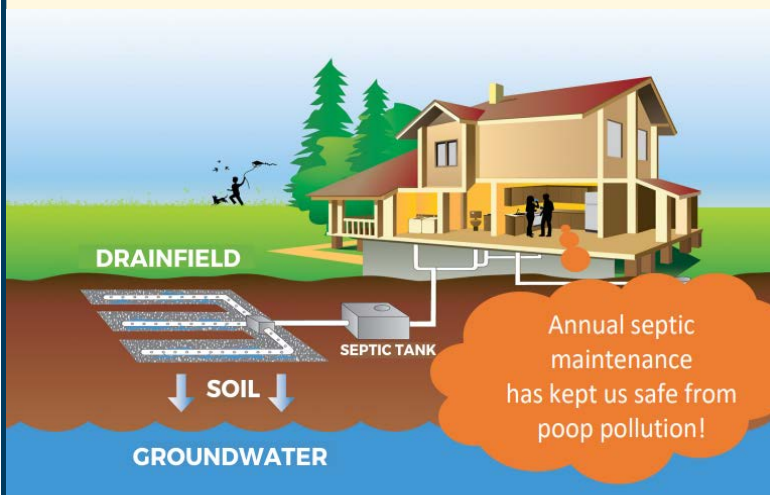
For more information visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/types-septic-systems>

### Register and attend a free webinar and get up to \$450 in rebates!

The rebate helps offset the costs of an annual maintenance inspection from a certified maintainer. To get started, contact a certified maintainer for an inspection:

[kingcounty.gov/oss/maintainer](http://kingcounty.gov/oss/maintainer)



Visit [kingcd.org/oss](http://kingcd.org/oss) to apply for your rebate!



## Why maintenance is important:

- **Saves You Money** – Regular maintenance costs a few hundred dollars every few years. This is a bargain compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a failing septic system, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars.
- **Keeps You and Your Family Healthy** – Household wastewater is loaded with bacteria, and viruses. Overlooking (or delaying) maintenance poses harmful health hazards that can lead to illness or disease. A properly functioning septic system helps remove these pollutants so well water and nearby waterbodies aren't contaminated.
- **Protects the Environment** – Failing septic systems release bacteria, viruses, and other materials that eventually enter streams, rivers, lakes, Puget Sound, and the ocean. The pollutants harm local ecosystems and can harm native plants, fish, and shellfish, and harming the people who eat them.
- **Protects Your Property Value** – An unusable septic system, or one in disrepair, lowers your property value and poses a potentially costly legal liability in repairing or replacing the system, which costs around \$15,000 to \$40,000. Disclosing a septic system failure is a seller's duty (chapter 64.06 RCW).

For more information and videos, visit:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WastewaterManagement/SepticSystem>

## Save Money and Puget Sound

Being a good steward of your septic system means that you are doing your part to improve the health of Puget Sound and all that live here.



## For more information

**Contact King Conservation District  
at 425-282-1955 or  
[oss@kingcd.org](mailto:oss@kingcd.org)**

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J18001 to the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Visit [kingcd.org/oss](https://kingcd.org/oss) to apply for your rebate!

