

Two new requirements help extend the life of your On-site Sewage (Septic) System:

1. Notice on Title (OSSM)

The on-site sewage system owner must file a "Notice of On-Site Sewage System Operation and Maintenance Requirements" (OSSM) document with the King County Office of Records and Elections. This document explains the system owner's responsibilities for operating and maintaining the system. The form and instructions are available from Public Health – Seattle and King County (see back page).

2. On-site Sewage System Monitoring and Maintenance

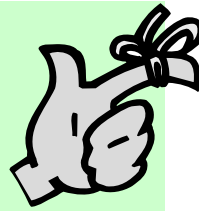
On-site sewage system owners must contact a Public Health – Seattle & King County certified **On-site System Maintainer (OSM)** to monitor and maintain their on-site sewage system. A certified **OSM** has two or more years of experience, has completed a monitoring and maintenance class and has passed an exam given by Public Health – Seattle & King County.

When should I call an On-site System Maintainer?

The frequency of monitoring depends on the type of on-site sewage system. All inspections, except when done for gravity systems, require a "Monitoring Report" to be filed by your **OSM** with Public Health – Seattle & King County.



Check the following box(es) to determine when your on-site sewage system should be monitored:



Pressure Distribution systems:

- Annually with a garbage disposal
- Every three years without a garbage disposal
- If your system includes an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU), the ATU is also monitored with the following schedule:
 - Every 3 months – basic monitoring
 - Annually – full monitoring

Mound, Sand Filter, Upflow Sand Filter or Sand Filter to Mound systems:

- Every 6 months (Glendon BioFilter only)
- Annually
- If your system includes an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU), the ATU is also monitored with the following schedule:
 - Every 3 months – basic monitoring
 - Annually – full monitoring

Gravity systems:

It is the owners' responsibility to monitor their systems – either themselves or by a pumper or an **OSM**. Packets for system owners titled "How to Monitor and Maintain Your Gravity On-Site Sewage System" are available (see back page of this brochure).

- Annually with a garbage disposal
- Every three years without a garbage disposal

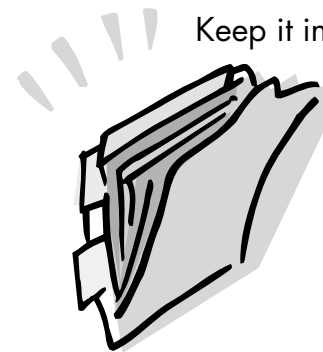
- If your system includes an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU), the ATU is also monitored with the following schedule:
 - Every 3 months – basic monitoring
 - Annually – full monitoring

What happens during a monitoring visit?

The **OSM** will monitor three sections of your on-site sewage system: the primary treatment unit, septic and pump tank and the reserve area. Read Section IV of your Monitoring Report for comments and recommendations made by your **OSM**.

You are not required to be present during the monitoring visit, although it is recommended by Public Health – Seattle & King County. The **OSM** will give you a copy of the Monitoring Report and submit a copy to Public Health – Seattle & King County.

What should I do with my copy of the monitoring report?



Keep it in your personal on-site sewage system file as part of the system's history. The file should be given to future owners.

How can I get a list of certified On-site System Maintainers?

- ◆ Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1ELbFcA>
- ◆ Call (206) 296-4932 or 1-800-325-6165 ext. 6-4932 for a mailed copy
- ◆ Make a request by mail or pick up a list at:
*Eastgate Public Health Center
Public Health – Seattle & King County
Environmental Health
14350 SE Eastgate Way
Bellevue, WA 98007*



Please Note:

If an uncertified **OSM** monitors your system, the Monitoring Report will be invalid. A certified **OSM** must be contacted to monitor and maintain your system.

General Questions

What is an Operation and Maintenance Program?

The Operation and Maintenance Program promotes regular monitoring and maintenance of your on-site sewage system and provides educational opportunities.



Why was the Operation & Maintenance Program created?

Failing on-site sewage systems can expose you, your family and your neighbors to sewage containing pathogens and viruses that can cause disease. Sewage can also contaminate groundwater in wells, rivers, streams or lakes near your home.

What laws govern the Operation & Maintenance Program?

The Operation & Maintenance Program was implemented under the State Board of Health's new regulations (Washington Administrative Code or WAC 246-272-15501) concerning monitoring and maintenance of on-site-sewage system performance. The state regulations create new responsibilities for the system owner and designates Washington's counties to administer an Operation & Maintenance Program. The regulations can be found at: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/rr

How will the new regulations benefit on-site sewage system owners?

Protects your underground investment against a premature failure

Saves money: replacing a failed on-site sewage system can cost up to \$20,000

Protects your family, environment and community from raw sewage spills

Provides assurance: routine maintenance of your on-site sewage system is essential, just like taking care of a car or bike



Routine maintenance keeps your on-site sewage system and surrounding environment healthy!



To receive "OSSM" forms and instructions:

- ◆ Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1P2LTUa> and look for "Notice on Title" Generic Form: Notice of On-Site Sewage System Operation and Maintenance Requirements (OSSM)
- ◆ Call (206) 296-4932 or 1-800-325-6165 ext. 6-4932 for a mailed copy
- ◆ Make a request by mail or pick up the form at:
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Gravity system owner packets: "How to Monitor and Maintain Your Gravity On-site Sewage System"

- ◆ Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1NKP8y0>
- ◆ Call (206) 296-4932 or 1-800-325-6165 ext. 6-4932 for a mailed copy
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HOME OWNERS

(Including condos, duplexes and mobile homes)

MAINTAIN YOUR ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM
...and avoid costly repairs



PH Public Health
Seattle & King County

HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

