



# VASHON TREATMENT PLANT

SUMMER 2024

## Protecting Vashon Island's Beauty - Join the Effort

People choose to live on Vashon Island for its natural beauty and environmental benefits. As part of the community, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) helps protect our island's environment and public health by cleaning water that is sent down the drain from homes and businesses. There are also many homes in Vashon that are not connected to WTD's wastewater system but instead have a septic system.

No matter if you are connected to WTD's wastewater pipes or if you have your own personal septic system, you have a role to play in making sure Vashon Island's water stays clean.

## Help keep Vashon Island's water stay clean!

Most sewage on Vashon is treated in personal septic systems. Whether you are connected on sewer pipes or on septic tanks, what you put down your drains ends up back in our environment.

### DO NOT FLUSH!



Facial, cleaning and baby wipes



Grease



Hair



Tampons and pads



Condoms



## What can you do to help?

### ✓ Check and maintain your side sewer.

If it's damaged, rainwater and groundwater can get into the system. This can be a big problem during storms. It can lead to sewer backups in your home or business.

### ✓ Check and maintain your septic system.

As it gets older, it might need repairs or replacements. Regular checks help prevent pollution, save money in the long run, and reduce the chance of it failing.

### ✓ Pump your septic tank when necessary.

Regular checks can help you know when it needs pumping. How often depends on how many people live in your home, how much sewage you produce, and the size of your tank.

### ✓ Be careful what you put down the drain!

Don't treat your drains and toilet like a trash can. Don't put unwanted medications down the toilet or sink. Items like wipes, tissues, paper towels, and grease shouldn't be flushed and can cause backups in your home.

Everyone who uses sewer pipes or septic tank systems plays a big role in protecting Puget Sound.

## HOW DO YOU GET WATER, AND WHERE DOES IT GO AFTER I USE IT?

### Vashon's drinking water comes from creeks and wells

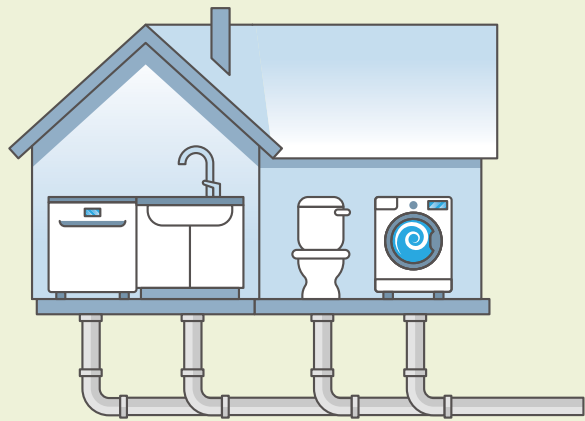
Treating drinking water is managed by a local water association or by private well owners.



Drinking water comes to your home through pumps and pipes.

### Water gets dirty

When we use water for using the bathroom, washing dishes, and cleaning, it gets dirty with stuff like poop, pee, soap, and food.



This wastewater (sewage) contains trash, dirt, organic waste, bacteria, germs, and small amounts of chemicals.

The wastewater then flows into one of two treatment systems:

- 1 Vashon sewer pipe
- 2 Septic tank

Sewage from the Town Center and Bunker Trail are treated at the Vashon Treatment Plant. Sewage from Beulah Park is treated at the Beulah Park Large Onsite Septic System. If you're outside of these areas, you're likely on a personal septic system.

#### Learn more:



Treatment plant process at Vashon  
[kingcounty.gov/VashonTreatmentProcess](http://kingcounty.gov/VashonTreatmentProcess)

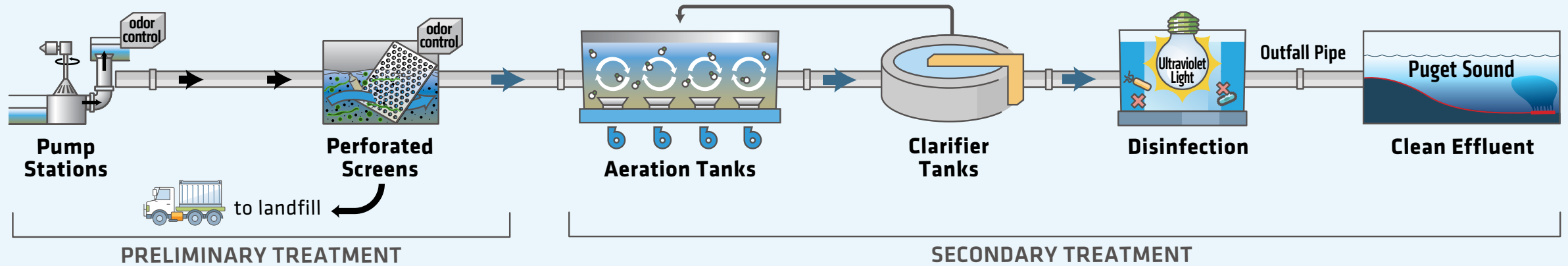


Treatment process at Beulah Park  
[kingcounty.gov/VashonBeulahPark](http://kingcounty.gov/VashonBeulahPark)

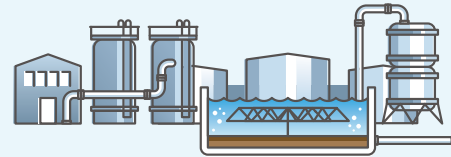


Not sure if you're connected to sewer pipes or on septic tank? You can check by visiting this tool and typing in your address:  
[kingcounty.gov/SewerOrSepticChecker](http://kingcounty.gov/SewerOrSepticChecker)

## 1 How wastewater (sewage) gets cleaned in the Vashon sewer pipe system.



PRELIMINARY TREATMENT  
About 170,000 gallons of wastewater (or sewage) come through Vashon Treatment Plant every day from homes and businesses served by the Vashon Sewer District.



When wastewater arrives at the Vashon Treatment Plant, screens filter out trash and debris.

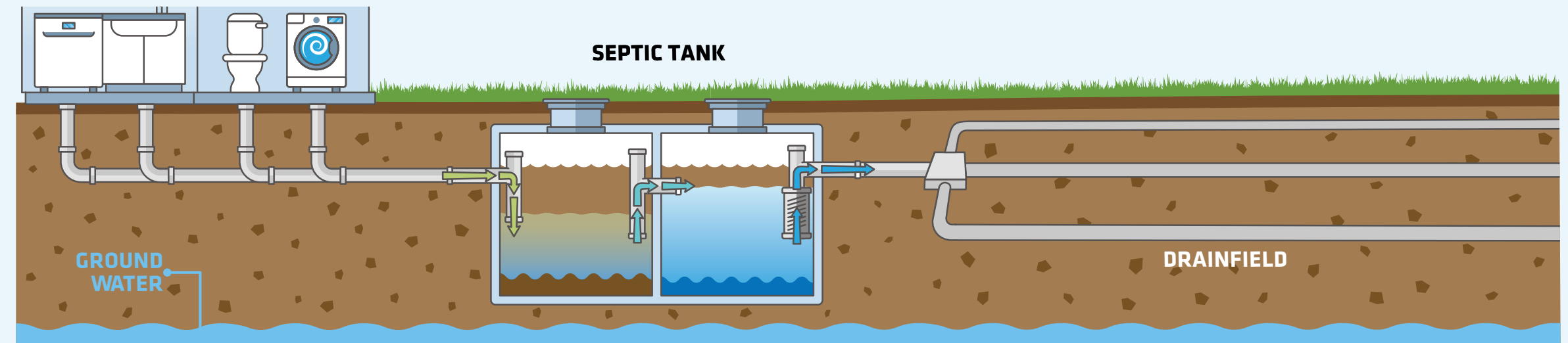
SECONDARY TREATMENT  
Wastewater is then moved to an aeration tank, pumped with air. Good bacteria thrive in this environment, eating contaminants and harmful bacteria.

Wastewater moves to a clarifier tank where the solid material (human waste and food pieces) settles to the bottom. Water leaves this tank 95% cleaner than when it entered the treatment plant.

The cleaner water is disinfected with ultraviolet light. This destroys the growth of remaining bacteria and pathogens in the water.

Finally, the treated water is released into Puget Sound to be part of the water cycle again!

## 2 How wastewater (sewage) gets cleaned in a septic tank system.



In your septic tank, solid waste (human waste and food pieces) settles to the bottom, while oils and grease float to the top. If you have a pump tank, there might be extra cleaning using ultraviolet light or good bacteria that need oxygen to break down contaminants and harmful bacteria.

The cleaner water flows out of the septic tank and into the drain field through pipes with small holes.

When treated water reaches the soil in the drain field, it trickles down through the soil. Natural processes provide even more treatment to remove contaminants.

The cleaned wastewater eventually meets groundwater to be part of the water cycle again!

## Interested in keeping up to date with Vashon Treatment Plant?



Visit our website and sign up for email or text updates.

[kingcounty.gov/Vashon](http://kingcounty.gov/Vashon)

24-hour emergency and odor reporting: 206-263-1760 • Administration: 206-463-7318

# PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

**GET INSPECTION  
EVERY 1-3 YEARS**



**ONLY TOILET PAPER  
IN THE TOILET**



**SPREAD OUT  
WATER USAGE**



## Treating wastewater on Vashon Island, protecting public health, and the Puget Sound takes all of us!

If you are connected to a sewer pipe - check and maintain your side sewer. If you are on a septic tank - check and maintain your septic system and pump your septic tank when necessary.

**Don't flush trash and be careful what you put down the drain!**

## Stay connected, be prepared! Need help or want to learn more?



### **King County Wastewater Treatment Division**

[kingcounty.gov/MaintainSideSewer](http://kingcounty.gov/MaintainSideSewer)

Find resources on how to prevent side sewer problems.



### **King County Department of Health On-site Sewage/Septic System Program**

[kingcounty.gov/OnsiteSewageSystems](http://kingcounty.gov/OnsiteSewageSystems)

Find resources for septic system owners and finding septic inspection professionals.



### **Vashon Team Septic questions form**

[kingcounty.gov/VashonTeamSeptic](http://kingcounty.gov/VashonTeamSeptic)

Vashon Team Septic is here for you!

They work with King County to provide resources and answer your questions.

Alternative Formats Available

206-477-5371 TTY Relay: 711

@KingCountyWTD

