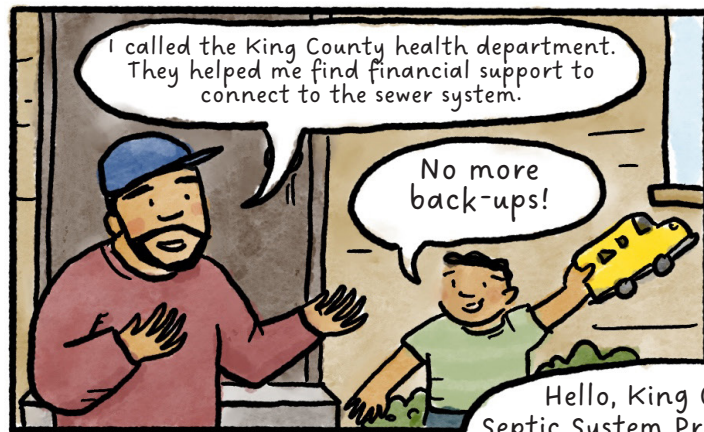
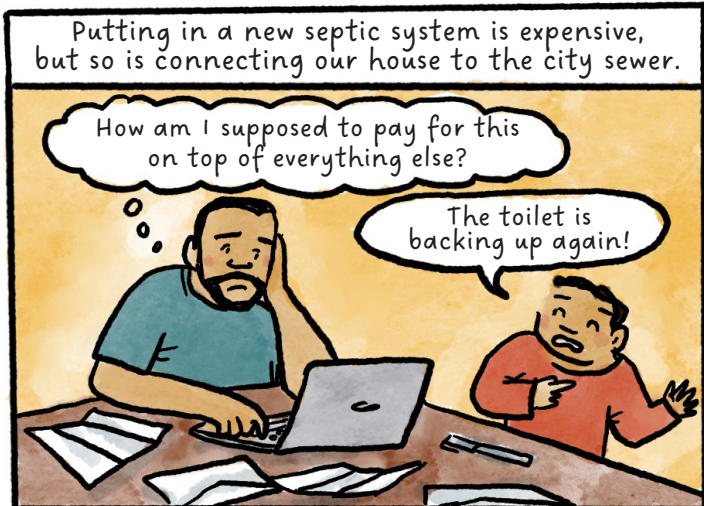


NO MORE TOILET BACKUPS: MY JOURNEY FROM SEPTIC TO SEWER

A comic from King County Equitable Wastewater Futures Program • art by Natalie Dupille



Hello, King County Septic System Program. How can I help you?

Call 206-455-8050 for help finding financial assistance.

Say the name of your language if you need interpretation.

Information to help maintain your septic system until sewer comes to your neighborhood!

kingcounty.gov/septic



SEPTIC TO SEWER: Commonly asked questions

Q. Will my septic system keep working forever?

A. No. All septic systems will eventually stop functioning. With routine maintenance, a septic system will last for about 30 years on average. Around 70% of urban septic systems in King County are past their expected lifespan.

Q. Can I continue to replace a failing septic system with new systems?

A. No. When a septic system fails, a new system cannot be installed in exactly the same place. Also, septic systems require proper soils for adequate wastewater treatment. Smaller urban lots can typically only replace their septic system once or twice.

Q. Why should I consider connecting to sewer?

A. Connection to sewer is a permanent solution, in contrast to septic systems which need replacement. Failing septic systems and surfacing sewage cause odors, damage to homes, and may spread diseases within a community. Additionally, sewer connection allows properties to have more capacity to build and develop (e.g., additional dwelling unit, or ADU). Lastly, if you are in an urban area, sewer connection may be required.

Q. How much does it cost to connect to sewer system?

A. It depends! If you have a stub from the sewer main out to your building, it may be easier to connect and may cost less. But if the sewer main needs to be extended, it can cost more. The cost to connect to sewer system is increasing. Minimize costs by planning ahead for sewer connection and finding out what financial resources are available.

