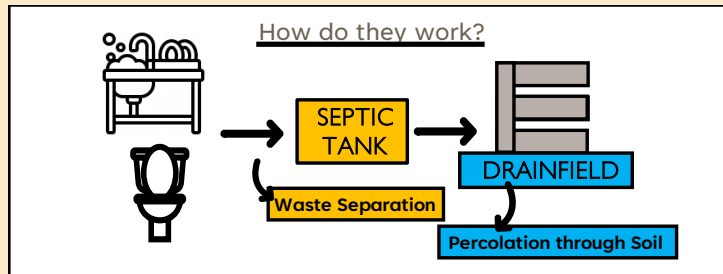


REGULAR MAINTENANCE MEANS SAFE FOOD FACILITY

How does a septic system work?



Septic systems collect the wastewater from your sink and toilet, treat it, and spread pretreated wastewater down through soil for complete filtration and treatment. Taking care of your septic system is your responsibility to ensure wastewater goes through the septic system compartments and down to the soil, where bacteria and pathogens are treated before the treated water enters groundwater.

Take care of your grease trap frequently!

- Empty your grease trap every month for high-protein handling facilities, every 3-6 months for coffee shops/bakeries with less protein food.
- Solidified grease should be treated as solid waste; it cannot be composted.
- Be mindful of food items off your drain: coffee grounds, vegetable peels, harmful chemicals



Have your septic system pumped every 3-5 years.

Pumping is essential to ensure solid or oil materials are not clogging the septic system compartments. Find King County certified pumper list at www.kingcounty.gov/oss/professionals

Resources?

Watch full workshop video at www.kingcounty.gov/oss
Contact Doug Jones for questions related to your septic! doug.jones@kingcounty.gov

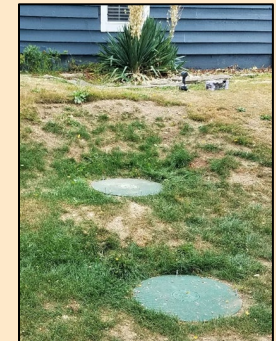
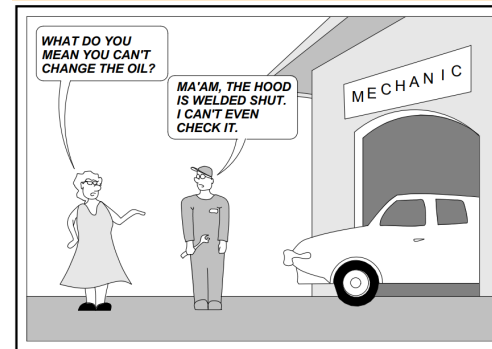
ANNUAL septic system inspection at food facilities is required by law*!

- Find the type of septic system at www.kingcounty.gov/septicrecords
- **Inspection at least every year:** Gravity system, Pressure distribution system, sand-filter system, mound system
- **Inspection at least every 6 months:** Glendon biofilter system, subsurface drip system, aerobic treatment unit system
- Contact King County certified maintainer at www.kingcounty.gov/oss/professionals



*King County Board of Health Title 13.60.010 E; Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-272A-0275

Install risers to make your septic system accessible.



What happens if the septic system is failing?

- Watch out for failing signs: water backing up, slow drainage, strong sewage odor, soggy soil or lush vegetation in drainfield, sewage surfacing
- Use as little water as possible
- Contact a certified maintainer
- Contact Public Health – Seattle & King County at (206) 296-4600
- Facility should be closed while addressing the septic failure
- Get financial assistance at www.kingcounty.gov/oss/loans