

**Nisqually Reach Watershed Protection Area
Septic System
Operation & Maintenance Program
Begins January 2013**

Why was this program created?

- Improve water quality
- Protect people from surfacing sewage
- Make sure all septic systems are regularly inspected and maintained
- Find and fix problems
- Help keep shellfish safe to eat

How much does this cost each year?

\$60 - Low Risk systems *

\$135 - High Risk systems that require a dye test *
* Plus: \$10 for each additional home on property

\$145 - Food establishments and Community drainfields

How can I save money?

- Do your own inspection: Enroll in homeowner certification class for gravity, mound, pressure or Glendon systems
- Install risers to make routine inspections easier and get up to \$100 rebate
- Enroll in the County's Senior/Disabled tax exemption program if you are eligible

What am I required to do?

- Routine inspection of septic systems (usually every 3 years)
- Pump tank as-needed (when more than 1/3 full with scum + sludge)
- Make repairs as needed
- Dye test if designated High Risk

Who can do the inspection?

Pumpers, monitoring specialists, installers

Trained and certified homeowners with the following system types:

- Gravity
- Mound
- Pressure distribution
- Glendon systems

Risk
Determination
Worksheet

What happens if I don't do the inspections?

- Septic system becomes non conforming
- Additional fees
- Limits ability to get permits
- May slow a sale
- May incur legal action

How long will this program be in place?

10 years with Board option to renew
Program review after 5 years



**SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE
BEGINS WITH YOU**