Your Septic System - Easy ways to keep it running

A. Know your system
   - Download your system information at www.snohd.org (click “Septic As-Builts” under “Healthy Places” at top of page)
   - Use your system map to locate the tank, drainfield and reserve area on your property

B. Choose wisely in your house
   - Keep these out of the drain and toilet:
     - kitchen scraps, fats, oils, grease
     - baby wipes, tissue, paper towels
     - floss, hair, feminine products, condoms
     - kitty litter
     - septic system additives
     - old medicine (find drop-off locations at www.snohd.org/203)
     - harsh chemicals, cleaners and paints (take to hazardous waste facility, www.snoco.org/solidwaste)
   - Use water wisely:
     - fix leaking sinks and toilets
     - use water-saving faucets, showerheads, toilets, dishwashers and washing machines
     - space loads of laundry and dishes throughout the week and run one load at a time
     - drain hot tubs away from tank and drainfield

C. Maintain your tank
   - Schedule routine inspections from a certified septic provider at least every three years
   - Pump your system when recommended by your inspector
   - Clean the tank outlet screen yearly (if you have one)

D. Protect your drainfield and reserve area
   - Call your septic provider if you find odors, wet spots or sewage
   - Keep your drainfield clear of:
     - vehicle traffic
     - structures
     - livestock
     - irrigation/sprinklers
     - downspouts
     - deep-rooted plants
   - Keep your reserve area clear of vehicle traffic, structures and livestock

Have a problem? We’re here to help. 425-339-5250

Prepared in partnership with Snohomish County Public Works Surface Water Management