

SAFE SEPTIC USE IN CBHA

CBHA does not own your personal septic on your personal property. It is the **owners' responsibility** to keep it in good working order. For the most in-depth information on septic systems refer to Thurston County's website, but as a starting place for members facing issues with their private septic we offer this guide. CBHA's responsibility is to provide pumping and transport to our Waste Water Treatment Plant as often as needed for the safety of our groundwater, to prevent raw sewage in our bio-swales or in Puget Sound. Thurston County is the authority on our system and provides information on Usage and Care of your Septic System.

IF YOUR SEPTIC TANKS NEED TO BE PUMPED MORE OFTEN IN THE RAINY WEATHER (or if you see any unusual pump issues)

Your closed septic system is comprised of a main tank and a secondary tank to collect all grey and black water. Our pump trucks come around to pump the liquid which gathers in the secondary tank. We do not deal with the solids. The solids are an **owner responsibility** to have pumped by the **private company of your choice** every 3-6 years depending on the number of people in the household. Proper septic care will lengthen the time a tank can go between cleanings.

- If the seals break or the tank cracks and allows rain water into the tank, you will be pumped more often, which costs you more money. It is important to maintain your septic system to keep it in good condition.
- If you require more frequent pumps and it is NOT a rainy season, you may need the help of a professional septic repair company to solve your problem. Thurston County provides a list of **Certified Septic System Professionals** at http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/cert_prof.html .

We are mandated to pump full tanks. The liquid cannot be allowed in the bio-swales and owners that illegally dump raw sewage are subject to Thurston County Section 29 Enforcement in Article V at this location: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm/pdf/Article_V.pdf

If you see illegal dumping of raw sewage in yards or bio-swales of any portion of CBHA notify the CBHA office immediately and report it here:

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health_fpforms/ehadm/complaint.htm

Thurston County has identified our neighborhood as a Sensitive Area because of our proximity to Totten Inlet and Squaxin Passage. Our on-site sewage system (OSS) has been developed per the Thurston County Sanitary Code. This is why almost all homes in the neighborhood are now on Closed Septic Systems. A few remaining homes are grandfathered in with standard septic systems, but when the system fails they will have to convert to the closed system and be pumped.

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/faqs.html> *This FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) answers many other common questions about living with a septic system.* One of the questions handled in the FAQ - **Q: How can I prevent a septic failure?** A: Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance! If your system has been properly designed, sited, and installed, the rest is up to you. Pump regularly, avoid excess water use, watch what you put down the drain and what you flush down the toilet. For additional information, see [Septic System Operation and Maintenance](#).