

DIVISION: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DRINKING WATER & ONSITE SEWAGE PROGRAM



ENSURING SAFE WATER AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Tens of thousands of Kitsap County households drink water from wells and water systems and rely on onsite sewage (septic) systems to safely dispose of waste. Our program ensures these vital systems are properly installed, maintained, and protected, preventing pollution and reducing the risk of illness throughout our community.

WHAT WE DO

Our program fulfills a number of important regulatory functions:

- We inspect septic systems and wells at time of property sale.
- We inspect well sites and septic designs prior to construction.
- We review plans for drainfield repairs when septic systems are no longer functioning.
- On behalf of the state Department of Health, we inspect large public water systems for compliance (Group A water systems).
- We regulate more than 800 small water systems (Group B water systems).
- On behalf of the state Department of Ecology, we inspect well construction and decommissioning.

“There is usually surprise followed by palpable relief when I can share that water supplies should be ‘boring.’ Anyone who has been midway through a shower when the water shuts off unexpectedly or when there is a boil water advisory the day of Thanksgiving meal preparations can appreciate the idea of ‘boring.’ Boring means reliable. Reliable water makes everything better.”

Melina Knoop, RS
Senior Environmental Health Specialist

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2022 HIGHLIGHTS

DRINKING WATER & ONSITE SEWAGE

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM NAME: Drinking Water & Onsite Sewage

MANAGER: Kim Jones

2021 FTE STAFF: 12

KEY LEGAL MANDATES:

- **Local Onsite Sewage Regulations (Kitsap County Board of Health Ordinance 2008A-01)** are promulgated under the authority of Chapters 70.05, 70.118, 70.118A, and 70.46 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and Chapter 246- 272A of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).
- **Local Drinking Water Regulations (Kitsap Public Health Board Ordinance 2018-01)** are promulgated under the authority of Chapters 18.104.043, 70.05, 70.46, and 70.142 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Chapters 246-290, 246-291, and 173-160 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).



Kitsap Public Health oversaw the decommissioning of 47 old or abandoned wells in 2022. State law requires property owners to seal up unused wells to prevent injuries and water pollution.

How our program measures success

Our program measures success by how responsive we are to customer needs and how effective we are in ensuring compliance with state and local regulations. Examples include:

- We respond to 100% of property inspection requests for water and septic systems within **seven business days**.
- We review and respond to 100% of installation permit inspection requests within **two business days**.
- We review and respond to 100% of well site replacement applications, water system designs, building site applications and building clearance applications within **30 days**.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

4,889 applications were reviewed by our team

2,009 existing septic systems and **573 wells** were inspected at the time of property sale

393 new septic systems and **121 new private wells** were inspected

201 repair permits were inspected for replacement of failing septic systems



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

In 2023, we are excited to continue training and developing new skills to meet the needs of our customers.

Expanding our presence on social media and other communications platforms is a high priority this year. It will help us share important messages about septic systems and drinking water with the community.

More and more customers are coming to our office to meet with staff to start applications or get information. These interactions are important and something that we really missed during the pandemic.

LEARN MORE & CONNECT

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Scan this QR Code with a smartphone camera to visit our program page.

