

Group B Water System Operating Permits

What are Group B Water Systems?

Typically, they are small, community water systems that serve between 2 and 14 residential connections. In the past, they were referred to as “Class IV” water systems. Starting **January 1, 2020**, these systems will be required to have an annual operating permit issued by the Health District. There are approximately 850 Group B water systems in Kitsap County, providing water to over 4,000 households. They are considered public water systems based on service, not ownership.

Is this a new requirement? Why have I not heard of this before?

Yes, the annual operating permit is a new requirement that has been introduced as part of the Health District’s 2018 revised Drinking Water Ordinance. The operating permit requirement is applicable to both existing and new Group B water systems.

Why is the Health District implementing this requirement?

Properly managed water systems in compliance with operational and monitoring requirements can prevent the risk of waterborne illness to system users. The Health District has legal responsibility to perform public Group B water system administration, which includes data collection and records maintenance; responses to public complaints, inquiries and records requests; and technical assistance for Group B water systems. The Health District incurs some costs to administer any public Group B water system – even those in compliance. These efforts cost the Health District approximately \$65,000 annually. Permit fees will support the Health District’s efforts to keep water systems operating in a way to protect the health of their users.

What kind of permit will I receive?

Water systems that are in compliance with required sampling and have a conforming user agreement will be issued a current operating permit. Water systems that have outstanding or unsatisfactory sampling, or do not have a user agreement will receive a conditional operating permit.

How will I acquire the necessary permit?

The water system owner/manager will be sent an operating permit payment notification by the Health District. The Health District will provide an online payment system or a mail-in option.

What is this going to cost?

The cost of a Group B water system annual operating permit is \$75. For a typical system of four households, the cost equates to \$19 a year when the cost is shared equally per household.

How do I find out more information?

Visit the Health District’s webpage at [Drinking Water | Kitsap Public Health District | kitsappublichealth.org](https://kitsappublichealth.org/Drinking-Water). You can also call the Health District’s Drinking Water Program at (360) 728-2235.



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