

# 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. After **March 4, 2019**, 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?

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.

## What kind of permit will I receive?

Water systems that are in complete compliance (record of water system approval, current monitoring results, no outstanding compliance issues) will be issued a standard operating permit. Water systems with outstanding issues will receive a conditional operating permit that will note the water system is out of compliance with the regulations.

## How will I acquire the necessary permit?

The water system owner/manager will be sent an operating permit invoice by the Health District. Invoices for the 2020 operating permit are expected to be sent in late 2019, as the Health District is still developing the permit system. The Health District will be requiring the use of an online payment system using a credit card payment.

## What is this going to cost? What do I get for the fee?

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 [www.kitsappublichealth.org](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org) and link to the Drinking Water Program’s Group B water system information. You can call the Health District’s Drinking Water Program at (360) 728-2235.



KITSAP PUBLIC  
HEALTH DISTRICT

345 6th Street  
Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

360-728-2235 t.

[kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)