



Individuals proposing to pump septic tanks in Snohomish County must first be certified by the Snohomish County Health Department (Health Department). Certified pumpers may also conduct limited repairs and/or perform maintenance and monitoring on conventional gravity sewage systems. On-site sewage system pumpers who possess a certification from a county other than Snohomish must also be certified by the Health Department prior to conducting business here.

Requirements to Become Certified

Submit the [Certification Application Form](#)

Complete this form and email it to SHD-EHQ@snoco.org. Your application will be reviewed by the Health Department and an invoice will be sent to pay the exam fee.

The following three items can be submitted any time before paying the annual certification fee (can be submitted before or after taking the exam). Send these documents to SHD-EHQ@snoco.org

Submit Current Department of Labor & Industries State Contractor's License

Health Department Inspection of Pump Truck & Related Equipment: Contact SHD-EHQ@snoco.org to schedule an inspection with a Monitoring & Maintenance Environmental Health Specialist. Once you schedule this inspection, you will meet the Environmental Health Specialist at the storage location of your pump truck where the inspection will be performed.

Submit Confirmation of Approved Dump Site: Obtain a letter from the dump site you will use that clearly states you have permission to dump septage at that specific facility.

Pay the Exam Fee (\$330)

You will be notified via email to pay this fee after your application has been reviewed. You can [pay this fee online](#). Once you have paid, the Health Department will send you an invitation to choose an exam date through Public Safety Testing (our testing partner).

Register for the Exam

Instructions to register will be in the invitation email that you will receive after paying the exam fee. You can choose to take the exam in-person at the testing facility in Lynnwood, or at home online. Follow all instructions carefully prior to taking the exam. Failure to do so will make you ineligible to take the exam on the date you chose.

Study for the Exam

It is highly recommended you review the [Certified On-site Sewage System Pumper Manual](#) provided by Health Department prior to taking the exam.

Pass the Exam

Written Exam: The written exam is comprised of true/false and multiple-choice questions. The exam is worth 100 points with a total of 70 points needed to pass (70%). The exam will take approximately 2 hours to complete. Resource materials, cell phones or other electronic devices are not allowed during the exam.

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Oral Review: The oral review follows the successful completion of the written exam. The oral review consists of discussing your exam results with an Environmental Health Specialist and an opportunity to ask further questions.

Pay the Annual Certification Fee (\$440)

After passing both portions of the exam, you will receive another invoice via email to pay the annual certification fee. Certificates are valid for the calendar year in which they are applied for and are renewed annually every January. You can [pay this fee online](#).

Register in OnlineRME

Once you have paid the annual certification fee, you will be emailed your certificate number and a link to register in OnlineRME. You will need to use your certificate number to register. After you have registered, email your OnlineRME number to SHD-EHQ@snoco.org.

Get Your Certificate in the Mail

A paper copy of your certificate will be sent in the mail once all certification requirements have been met. Once you receive this, you are eligible to perform work as an on-site sewage system pumper in Snohomish County.