WHO TO HIRE?
Different septic contractors are certified for different types of work. Contractors can hold more than one certification.

Monitoring & Maintenance Professionals can:
- Inspect any kind of system
- Perform limited repairs on any system type
  
  If the system is a proprietary product, the provider must be authorized to inspect/repair by the manufacturer too.

Pumpers can:
- Pump out tanks when needed
- Inspect gravity systems only
- Perform limited repairs on gravity systems only

Installers can:
- Install new systems and make alterations
- Perform major or limited repairs on any system

Designers can:
- Design new systems, alterations, or repairs
- Designate a reserve area if one doesn’t exist

DO I NEED A PERMIT?
Depending on the task, a permit from the Health Department may be needed.

Maintenance - No Permit Required
- System inspection
- System pumping
- Riser installation

Limited Repairs - No Permit Required
- System controls repair
- System pump repair
- Baffle installation/repair
- Effluent filter installation/repair
- Minor tank repair

Major Repairs - Permit Required
- Tank replacement
- Drainfield repair/replacement
- System replacement
- Drainfield alteration

TIPS FOR HIRING CONTRACTORS

Certification | Any septic professional you hire must be certified. Snohomish County Health Department certifies pumpers, installers, and monitoring & maintenance professionals. Designers are licensed by the Washington State Department of Health. For a list of septic providers, visit snohd.org.

Ask Questions | When you contact a contractor it’s important to ask questions. Visit the Washington State Department of Health for a list of questions you can ask to get a better idea of cost and services.

Ask Around | It’s a good idea to contact at least three certified providers to find the one that best suits your needs. It’s also recommended that you locate your septic tank before calling a provider.

Reporting | Anyone inspecting or pumping a septic system is required to upload reports to a database called OnlineRME. Get records and reports for your property by visiting OnlineRME through the Health Department website.
We recommend contacting at least three certified providers for regular maintenance and pumping when needed. When you contact a contractor, it’s important to ask questions. Below is a list of questions to help you find the provider that best suits your needs. We suggest you locate your septic tank before calling the provider. For a list of certified professionals, visit snohd.org.

### Questions to Ask

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions to Ask</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you conduct inspections of (insert your system type)?</td>
<td>Yes No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is included in an inspection?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the cost of an inspection?</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does this cost include...</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Digging out septic lids?</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning the baffle filter (if present)?</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumping fees?</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report submittal fee?</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump out of the tank?</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the tank has not been maintained or pumped on a routine basis is there an extra charge?*</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you pump from long distances or along slopes? Is there an extra charge?**</td>
<td>Yes No Extra $ _______</td>
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*Providers may charge for the extra water and time required to pump a tank that has been neglected.

**If your septic tank is located far from where the pumper’s truck can access the tank, or if you require pumping up a steep slope, provide the distance and/or elevation between the septic tank and the location where the pumper’s truck can obtain access. The pumper will determine if the truck can provide this type of service and estimate an additional charge, if appropriate.