

SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION SCHEDULES

Inspections are important to catch issues early! As an owner of a septic system, you are required by Washington State to maintain it. This includes having regular inspections. The type of system you have determines how often it must be routinely inspected. Additionally, some types of systems have other requirements and recommendations during their first couple of years.

Gravity Systems	All Other System Types
Inspections required once every three years.	Inspections required annually.

Newly Installed Systems: Additional Requirements & Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravity system that includes a pump • Low Pressure Distribution (LPD) 	An inspection is also recommended 6 months after the system is in use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Pressure Distribution (LPD) with an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU) • Subsurface Drip (SSD) with an Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU) • OSCAR 	Inspections are also required every 6 months over a 2-year period once the system is in use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsurface Drip • Mound • Sand Filter 	An inspection is also required 6 months after the system is in use.

Manufacturer recommendations

For subsurface drip systems, OSCARs, and any system that includes an aerobic treatment unit, the manufacturer may recommend more frequent inspections. For more info, reach out to the manufacturer or visit Washington State Department of Health for a List of Registered On-site Treatment & Distribution Products (doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/wastewater-management/forms-publications).

Who can inspect my system?

Find a list of certified septic professionals on our website at www.snohd.org/687/Find-a-Septic-Contractor. Monitoring & maintenance specialists can inspect almost all system types (some systems require specialized training - check with your service provider). Pumpers can only inspect conventional gravity systems.