frequently asked questions

Q: Do I need to replace my septic system even if I am not adding any bedrooms?

A: *When you make any additions, alterations, and/or improvements, it can increase the life expectancy of your home. As a result you may be required to also increase the life expectancy of your septic system by replacing it with one that meets all current state and county standards. Health inspectors will make this determination when they review your application.*

Q: Is there an example of when I will be required to replace my septic system versus when I will not?

A: *Suppose you would like to change a single family residence into an office or an adult day care facility. A new office would have little impact on the septic system so it is likely you will not be required to replace it.*

On the other hand, an adult day care facility can generate additional wastewater from sinks, toilets, showers, etc. It is therefore likely you will be required to replace your septic system.

Questions?

Public Health — Seattle & King County
14350 SE Eastgate Way
Bellevue, WA 98007

In person: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
(no appointment necessary)
206-477-8177

Department of Permitting & Environmental Review (DPER)
35030 SE Douglas St., Ste. 210
Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9266

Application & Fees

Application for the Health Department Approval of Building Approval
http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/owners/permits.aspx

Health fee
http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/fees.aspx

DPER fee
http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/info/applying/fees.aspx

SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE BEGINS WITH YOU

Public Health
Seattle & King County

Health & DPER

homeowners on a septic system

{ Are you considering remodeling or expanding your home? }

Public Health
Seattle & King County

Remodeling? Expanding? Adding attached or detached structures?

If so, you must consider your septic system and, if applicable, your private drinking well when planning such changes as it is critical for the success of your project.

The Department of Permitting & Environmental Review (DPER) and Public Health—Seattle & King County (Health) will usually assess your septic system to determine if it can support your proposed remodel, expansion or addition project. Your septic system must be adequate to treat sewage expected to be generated over the remaining life of your home and its continued use should not pose a risk to public health and water quality of creeks, rivers or groundwater. This will help protect the health of your family, pets, and the environment.

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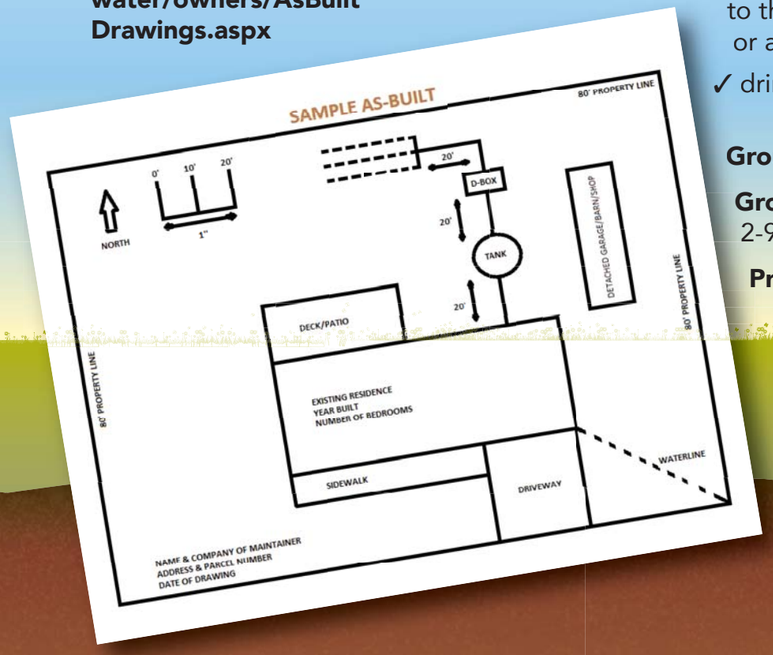
step 1 — DPER's* first review

*Department of Permitting & Environmental Review

Bring your property's project proposal to DPER. Depending on the scope and size of your project, you may be required to submit an As-Built, which is a drawing that shows the location of your property in relation to the septic system. In most cases, we may already have a copy of your property's as-built. Search by visiting **http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/owners/AsBuiltDrawings.aspx**



step 2 — Health review (required in most cases)

If DPER determines you need a review from Health, you will need to submit a ***Application for Health Department Approval of Building Permit*** and the related fee.

A complete application must indicate:

- ✓ age of septic system
- ✓ type of septic system
- ✓ condition of septic system
- ✓ location of septic system as compared to the area of remodel, expansion or addition
- ✓ drinking water source

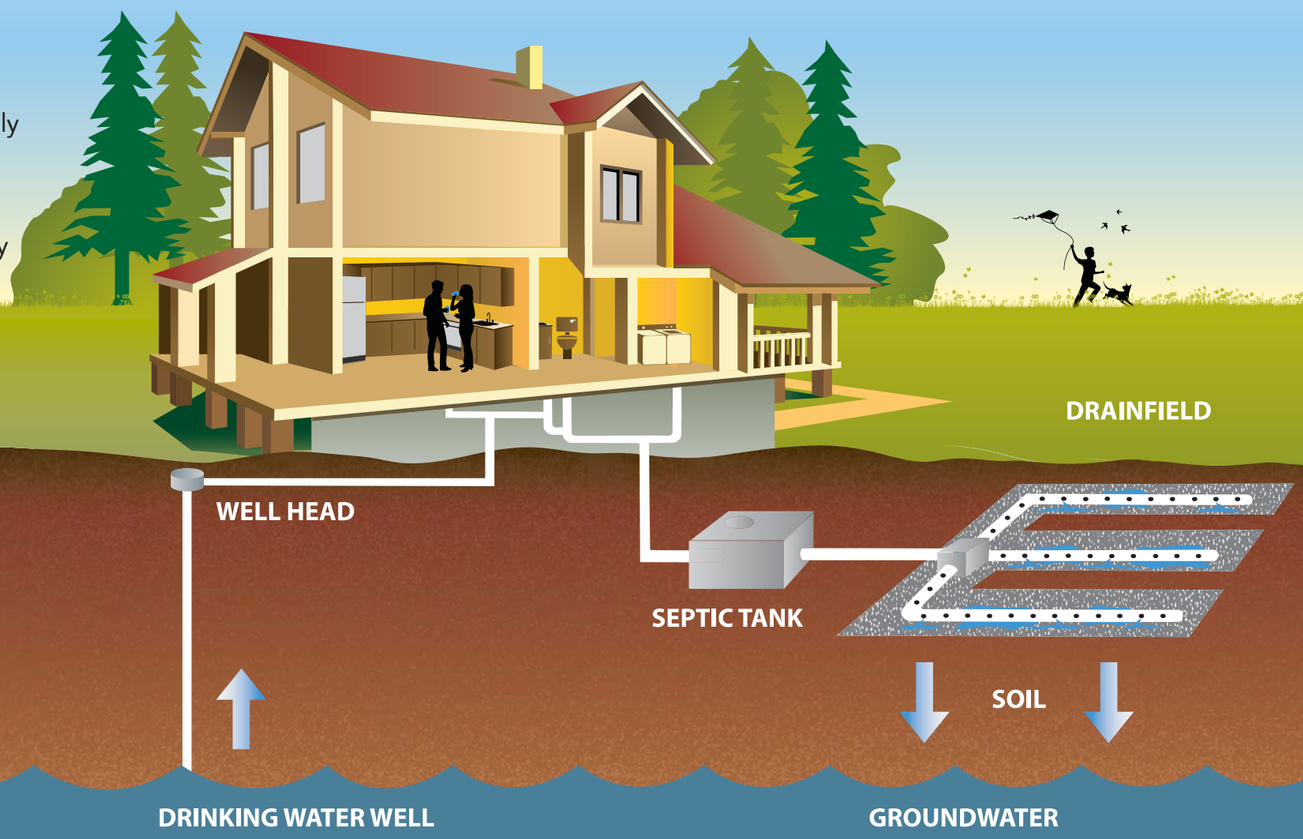
Group A Large Municipal Water Supply

Group B Community Well with 2-9 connections

Private Well Serving single property

step 3 — DPER's second review

Submit Health inspector's approval letter to DPER for further review.

step 4 — DPER's approval & permit issuance

DPER will issue a permit if everything is in check.