



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Making A Difference

Septic System Maintenance

By Kendall Carman

If you would like to learn more about your system and the maintenance it requires, consider attending the free Septic Maintenance workshop with WSU Extension and Mason County Public Health. Septic systems are expensive and complex; understanding their function will save you money and help the environment. At the workshop you will learn what type of septic system you have, how it works, and what maintenance it requires. We will even go over how to perform your own inspection of a conventional gravity system, which is easier and less gross than it sounds.

In all septic systems, waste first travels to a septic tank. Contrary to what you might think, this is not where most of the treatment takes place. The tank is instead utilized to settle and separate the wastes: oils to the top, solids to the bottom. Some people have advanced systems like Aerobic Treatment Units or sand filters that treat the wastewater further after the tank. Ultimately, waste is distributed through pipes into your drain field where bacteria and other organisms treat the water until it is safe for the environment. Risks of Failed Systems Failed systems leech bacteria, viruses, organic matter and nutrients into local waters. These pollutants not only threaten the aquaculture industry but also sicken boaters and swimmers. Furthermore, the nutrients emitted by failing systems increase the likelihood of toxic algae blooms in our lakes and oxygen free “dead zones” in places like the Hood Canal.

Workshop Date: Thursday June 24th from 6-7:30pm

Workshop Location: Online over Zoom

Contact Kendall Carman at kendall.carman@wsu.edu for the registration link!

There are a variety of materials available to homeowners on the Mason County Health Department:

<https://www.co.mason.wa.us/health/environmental/onsite/index.php>

Kendall Carman is the Master Gardener/Small Farms Coordinator for WSU Extension Mason County, kendall.carman@wsu

For more information regarding the Mason County WSU Extension office call 360-427- 9670 Ext. 680, or visit our website at <http://mason.wsu.edu>

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Kendall Carman at 3030 N 4th St. Shelton, WA 98584, (360)427-9670 ext. 682, kendall.carman@wsu.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.