



Title: WSU Making a Difference – Be Septic Smart

Article:

Mason County is the largest producer of shellfish in Washington State and is home to over 700 miles of shoreline, nearly 100 freshwater lakes, and two major rivers among many other smaller creeks and tributaries. Preservation of the county's natural resources is incredibly important for our local economy and for the health of all our residents, including our local flora and fauna.

Our septic systems naturally recycle wastewater by allowing it to safely return to ground water and re-enter the water cycle. Unfortunately, lack of maintenance or knowledge about properly caring for our septic systems can lead to contamination of our precious water resources. In addition to this, septic systems are an expensive investment; having basic knowledge of your system can prevent more serious (and expensive) problems from forming.

There are a few steps you can take to maintain your septic system, prevent pollution, and reduce the risk of high-cost repairs:

- Understand which type of septic system you have
- Complete regular inspections on your system
- Ensure your drain field is properly landscaped
- Follow beneficial household practices such as not putting food, grease, or oil down your sink or garbage disposal, avoiding powdered soaps and detergents, reducing your use of bleach and avoiding toxic household cleaners, and being careful what you flush!

If you would like to learn more about what type of septic system you have and how it functions, landscaping your drain field, maintenance tips, and cost-assistance programs, plan on attending one of the 'Be Septic Smart' workshops hosted by WSU Extension Mason County in collaboration with Mason County Public Health & Human Services! The first workshop is in Shelton on July 6th from 5:30PM-7:00PM; the second opportunity is a lunch n' learn over Zoom on October 12th from 12PM-1:30PM.

Both workshops require pre-registration at <https://besepticsmartmasoncounty.eventbrite.com> or through calling (360) 427-9670 ext. 682.

For additional information about WSU Extension Mason County and its programs go to <https://extension.wsu.edu/mason>.

*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 Tessa Halloran two weeks before the event date at (360) 427-9670 ext. 682, tessa.halloran@wsu.edu, or 303 N. 4th St., Shelton WA.

Submitted By:

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