



WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
**ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM
PERMIT PROCESS**

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Whatcom County Sewage Disposal Rules and Regulations, WCC 24.05, require that on-site sewage systems be designed by licensed designers or licensed professional engineers. A list of designers or engineers can be obtained from the State of Washington Department of Licensing website (<https://fortress.wa.gov/dol/dolprod/bpdLicenseQuery/>). To locate phone numbers and/or addresses of the names from the DOL website, go to your telephone book or utilize an online phone directory. Any designer or professional engineer licensed in Washington can design on-site sewage systems, so you may select one located in Whatcom County or from other counties. It is strongly recommended that you check the license status of the designer or engineer that you select at the DOL web site to make sure that the designer's license is current and active. If you do not have access to the internet, you may request the health department to give you a printed listing from the DOL website.

Steps in Obtaining an On-Site Sewage System Permit:

1. Contact a licensed sewage disposal system designer or licensed engineer. The designer or engineer will submit an onsite sewage system design for the property with an application for a sewage permit to the Health Department. The permit application fee, payable to the Health Department, is \$455.00 for all types of septic systems.
2. The Health Department makes an inspection of the site and either approves or denies the application.
 - A. If approved, the permit is issued. The permit is valid for 3 years from date of issuance.
 - B. If the application is denied because revisions to the permit application or design are needed, when all revisions are completed by the designer to the satisfaction of the Health Department, the permit is issued.
 - C. If the application is denied, the owner or purchaser has the right to appeal the decision to the Hearing Examiner. The Hearing Examiner appeal fee is \$360.00, payable to the Health Department.