



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 12, 2018**

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**WCHD Celebrates Whatcom Water Week with Septic Resources**

**BELLINGHAM, WA—** It's a coincidence that Septic Smart Week and Whatcom Water Week are happening at the same time – September 15-22, 2018 – but the connection isn't lost on those interested in the quality and safety of Whatcom County's water. That's why the Whatcom County Health Department is joining Whatcom Water Week partners in celebrating our local water resources by providing a free septic system maintenance class, plus additional septic maintenance resources, to help homeowners keep their systems running well and our local waterways clean.

Maintaining a septic system can feel daunting for some homeowners, but it doesn't have to be. Homeowners can take advantage of several resources to learn things they can do to keep their system working as it should and reduce the costs associated with maintaining it:

- Attend a [free septic maintenance training](#) offered by WCHD – The next class is September 20 from 6-8pm at the Ferndale WECU. Register by calling (360)778-6000.
- Take advantage of [septic rebates](#) – Rebates are available for septic inspections, equipment installation and septic tank pumping when done by a licensed professional. To qualify you must live in a coastal watershed and attend the in person septic training provided by WCHD. Contact Kate Kimber at Whatcom County Public Works for more information: [kkimber@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:kkimber@co.whatcom.wa.us) or 360-778-6302
- Apply for a loan program to repair or replace a failing septic system – Loans are offered through a partnership between Whatcom County and the non-profit lender, [Craft 3](#).

Even simple steps like finding ways to use less water; not putting household chemicals, grease, or septic tank additives down the drain or into your system; and directing runoff from downspouts or driveways away from septic drainfields can help protect a septic system and keep costly repairs at bay.

Failing septic systems can leak waste and wastewater into groundwater used for wells and into local rivers, lakes and beaches, contaminating them with bacteria that can make people sick. The Whatcom County Health Department works with septic system professionals and homeowners to ensure septic systems in Whatcom County are functioning well and to prevent waste from polluting the water we need for many other uses.

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