



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

Environmental Health Services • 111 E. 3rd Street • Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2258 • Fax: 360-452-9795

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

CONTACT for Press Release: Sandra White (360) 417-2417

CONTACT for Septics 101 and 201: Clallam County Environmental Health (360) 417-2506

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Clallam County Environmental Health and the EPA encourage homeowners to maintain septic systems during Septic Smart Week

September 18-22, 2023 was **SepticSmart Week**—a week during which the Clallam County Environmental Health joins the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in reminding homeowners and communities about the importance of caring for and maintaining their septic systems. Septic Smart Week underscores the importance of maintaining the almost 1 million septic systems operating in Washington—including over 18,000 in Clallam County.

Failure to maintain a septic system can lead to backups and overflows, which can result in costly repairs. Additionally, septic systems that are poorly sited, designed, installed, operated or maintained can cause health and water quality problems, including:

- Contamination of surface waters and ground water with disease-causing pathogens and nitrates
- Contamination of shellfish beds and swimming beaches by pathogens
- Excessive nitrogen discharges to sensitive coastal waters
- Phosphorus pollution of inland surface waters
- More algae growth and lowered oxygen levels in the water

Septic system owners are invited to have their septic questions answered at the Dungeness River Nature Center in Sequim at 1943 W Hendrickson Road. Join us Thursday, September 28th for Septic 101 as we celebrate **SepticSmart Week**. Clallam County Environmental Health is also offering **Septics 201** (Septics Maintenance) (Do-It-Yourself Septic Inspection) classes this October 19th and November 2nd from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

During these free classes we will go over topics such as:

- Protect It and Inspect It
- To pump or not to Pump
- Think at the Sink
- Don't Overload the Commode/Don't Strain Your Drain/Shield Your Field

Space is limited so pre-registration is required for Septics 101 and 201; register online at www.clallam.net/septic or by contacting Environmental Health at (360) 417-2506.

For more information on septic systems and being Septic Smart, visit www.clallam.net/septic and www.epa.gov/septicmart.