



SEPTIC SYSTEMS: IS YOURS FAILING? A SIMPLE DYE TEST CAN TELL

Do you know there are more than 59,000 onsite septic systems in Kitsap County? Almost all of the residential properties outside our cities are served by a septic system.

If septic systems are not functioning properly they can create a public health hazard by contaminating drinking water, lakes, streams and marine waters. A simple dye test conducted by the health district can confirm a failing septic system.

SIGNS OF A FAILING SYSTEM

- Sewage on the surface of the ground;
- Gray, white or black matting on the ground;
- Foul odor;
- Discharge from a pipe;
- Water sample result that is high in bacteria from feces.

DYE TESTING

Dye testing is a tool that we can use to confirm a failing septic system.



KITSAP PUBLIC
HEALTH DISTRICT

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When our visual survey indicates a problem, we may schedule a dye test with the property owner.

The test is performed by placing dye into toilets and sinks. The dye is flushed into the system with running water. One to three weeks later, the area is inspected for evidence of dye. It can take several weeks for the dye to travel through the system.

If dye is present, and a water sample shows a high count of bacteria from human feces, the septic system is failing.

OUR ROLE

To safeguard the health and safety of our community, we provide residents with information to help correct a failing septic system.

We also review septic designs, issue permits, certify septic contractors, and oversee required septic inspections and maintenance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us at 360-728-2235.