

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

Kitsap PIC NTA

The Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) works to protect and improve water quality to ensure Kitsap County residents have safe surface water for years to come. Staff monitors surface water quality by sampling streams, lakes, marine beaches and freshwater shoreline discharges. The purpose of this project is to provide additional resources for identifying and eliminating sources of bacterial pollution in Kitsap County.

What we're doing

KPHD will be targeting marine shoreline and shoreline drainage properties that have not recently had OSS service. At these high priority sites, KPHD will distribute a \$250 onsite sewage system (OSS) service rebate offer, to encourage compliance with OSS maintenance requirements. The OSS service rebate requires participation in a 15-minute Sanitary Survey which is an opportunity for KPHD inspectors to provide education and outreach information, as well as site specific recommendations to homeowners regarding their OSS.



Why is this issue important?

Kitsap County has 228 miles of shoreline and its beaches are an important resource. Residents use the marine beaches for recreation, shellfish harvesting, fishing, boating, and various other activities. Fecal waste from warm-blooded animals can contain pathogenic bacteria and viruses that cause disease in humans.

What you can do

There are more than 55,000 onsite septic systems in Kitsap County. As a homeowner, regular maintenance of your septic system and being aware of the signs of a failing septic system, is important for protecting public health and water quality. It is also important to pick up after your pets and have good farm practices to keep fecal pollution out of streams and off the beaches.



About

The Water Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program was started in 1995 to protect the public from waterborne illness and other water-quality related hazards. Our job is to ensure that surface waters are safe and sanitary. KPHD's PIC program is nationally recognized for being innovative and effective.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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"This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Assistance Agreement PC-01J18001 to the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use."