

Septic Safety: What you can do

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):

The purpose of the GWMA is to reduce nitrate contamination concentrations in groundwater below state drinking water standards

Failing septic systems can pollute drinking water wells

Check it, fix it, maintain it:

Bacteria, viruses and other pollutants from the sewage of a failing septic system, may contaminate drinking water wells, groundwater aquifers, lakes, rivers and streams.

A septic system doesn't have to be a problem.

- Get regular inspections and maintenance. Choose a date or time of the year that's easy to remember for the inspection. Mark it on the calendar.
- Regularly pump your system. Typically, once every three years for a four-person household.
- Learn how to keep your system working properly. Be careful what you flush or pour down the drain. No pet waste, medications, grease, or toxic chemicals.
- Watch for clues that your tank is nearing capacity or your system is failing. Got odors? Get someone to check it out right away. Then fix it, if needed.
- Keep trees at least 30 feet from edge of drain field to keep their roots from invading. Never drive over the system.
- Conserve water. Too much can cause solids to escape your tank and plug your drain field.
- Repair or replace your system when it fails or is otherwise inadequate.

Locate your septic tank and drain field:

- Use your property map or follow discharge pipe from your house. Probe the ground with a rod to determine the location of your septic tank.
- Underground pipes distribute wastewater in a drain field. Wet spots can indicate a failing drain field that needs professional attention.

Do your part to keep groundwater safe and clean.

For more information:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wqguide/septic.html>

<http://www.yakimacounty.us/335/Septic-Systems>

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA



The purpose of the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area is to reduce nitrate contamination where concentrations do not meet drinking water standards.

GWAC Working Groups

- Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring
- Education and Public Outreach
- Funding
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Livestock/CAFO
- Regulatory Framework
- Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Municipal

To get involved, call
(509) 574-2300

More information at:
www.yakimacounty.us