

Kitsap Connection

For customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility May/June 2017

From the mouths of babes...

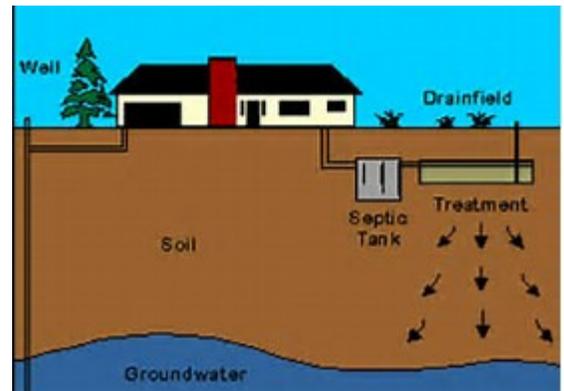
As mentioned in the last newsletter, the week of May 7-13 was national Drinking Water Week. This year's theme was "Water: To Know It Is To Love It". I recently participated in Kitsap's annual Water Festival, a day-long education on all-things-water for local fourth and fifth graders. In talking to the kids, one point I stressed: we all live right above our water source. As a groundwater dependent area, our drinking water supplies are, literally, right under our feet. Many community water systems, in fact, have their source well right in the neighborhood being served. Does knowing this make the kids love their water more? I don't know. I hope it, at least, makes them think twice about what they dump on the ground. Why? As one kid said: "cuz we might end up drinking it one day". As drinking water deserves more than one week per year, let's continue to look at (and love!) our water.

Wait, what? I live above my water supply?

Yep. Almost everyone in Kitsap gets their drinking water from a groundwater source. While we have taken steps to "regionalize" much of our drinking water infrastructure, many communities are served by small stand-alone systems. For these communities, the relationship to their water supply is more immediate. A typical system consists of a source well, a reservoir and underground pipes that distribute water throughout the community. The source well is usually somewhere in the neighborhood it serves. Obviously, then, what is dumped on the ground can be of concern. But what about stuff that is washed down the drain or flushed down the toilet? Yeah... about that... Many communities served by these small water systems also have individual septic systems. Studies have shown that up to 90% of household water use is returned to the groundwater system from homes using onsite septics.

While functioning septic systems (and the earth) do a good job of filtering, we all should be cognizant of the impacts we can have on our community's water supply.

Not only "cuz we might end up drinking it one day" but that we want it safe and sustained for our kids and their kids and so on. Now, that's love.



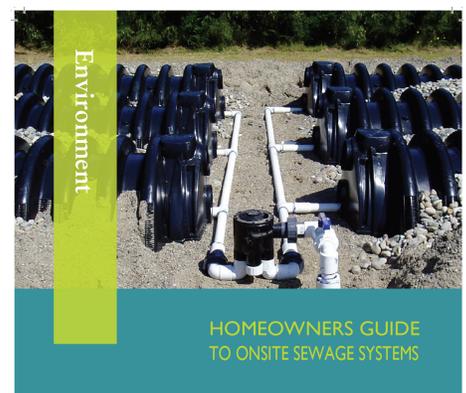
Maintaining your septic system / maintaining our water supply

Kitsap Public Health District reports there are approximately 58,000 onsite septic systems in Kitsap County. As each of these has an impact on our groundwater system, let's look at some ways septic owners can protect—not only their system—but the community water supply that is just "downstream".

First off, don't cripple or poison your septic system. A septic system is—essentially—a living organism. Bacteria in the septic tank breaks down organic material. Harsh chemicals, food waste,

and other things can kill off the bacteria in your septic tank. Be careful what you flush down your drain.

Secondly, don't damage your drainfield. Drainfields serve an additional treatment function within an onsite system: when working properly, they evenly disperse liquid waste over the drainfield. This maximizes the earth's ability to further filter the wastewater. When drainfields are compacted by vehicle traffic or swamped by unrepaired leaks, treatment is compromised.



Kitsap Public Health District's [Homeowners Guide to Onsite Sewage Systems](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/files/homeownersguide.pdf) can be downloaded at www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/files/homeownersguide.pdf

Cleaning it up and putting it back

An update on the Port Gamble Wastewater Treatment Plant. As of the end of April, the new wastewater treatment plant at Port Gamble is up and running. The new plant is a Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) plant that treats wastewater to a very high level and then discharges it to a large drainfield. Kitsap PUD became involved in the project in 2014 when a group overseeing the cleanup of Gamble Bay asked the District to administer a \$2 million grant from Washington Department of Ecology. The grant was to redirect the old treatment plant's discharge point from Hood Canal to an upland drainfield. This would open up 90 acres of now closed geoduck beds and further efforts to restore Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Kitsap PUD was concerned; however, about the quality of wastewater that would be returned to the groundwater system and pushed for the old treatment plant to be replaced with a state-of-the-art MBR facility. The group agreed this would be more protective of groundwater sup-

plies and redrafted plans to include a new MBR facility.

The MBR plant works via a two stage process: bacteria break down organic matter (bioreaction)

and filters then remove things as small as viruses. Additional treatment with UV light produces almost drinking water quality effluent.

Kitsap PUD believes technologies like MBR can be important tools for—not only restoring Puget Sound— but also recharging and sustaining our groundwater supplies into the future.



Port Gamble MBR plant

Yeah, cuz we're not getting any rain...

At the end of March, a Seattle newspaper reported that the Puget Sound area had only nine days of sunshine since last October.

Sigh.

For those looking for a silver lining to the grey, it is this: lots of rain equals lots of recharge. Yay, rain! Right?

Since October 1, Kitsap has received the following rainfall totals:

Area	Total since 10/2016	Annual average
Hansville	36 inches	31 inches
Poulsbo	55 inches	41 inches
Port Orchard	66 inches	51 inches
Holly	106 inches	78 inches

Consumer Confidence Reports Available July 1



Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) for KPUD's Group A water systems (those serving over 15 connections) will be available online by July 1.

CCRs summarize water quality data collected on the system in the previous calendar year. They are required by the Safe

Drinking Water Act. The Act requires utilities to report any "regulated contaminants" detected in the previous year's sampling.

CCRs will be posted, by system, at <http://www.kpud.org/consumerConfidence.php>

Kitsap PUD

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2017 Water Rates

2017 Rates shown below are for a typical residential service. Remember: KPUD bills on a bi-monthly basis.

Basic Service Charge

\$24.25 (monthly)
\$48.50 (per 2-month billing)

Commodity Charge

Tier 1 (0-1,400 cubic feet)
\$1.15 per 100 cubic feet*

Tier 2 (1,401—2,400 cubic feet)
\$1.55 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 3 (2,401—4,000 cubic feet)
\$2.40 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 4 (over 4,000 cubic feet)
\$5.50 per 100 cubic feet

*100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons

Kitsap Water Trivia

In this issue, we've talked a bit about human wastewater. But we aren't the only ones producing waste. Our pets are pretty prolific and, left unmanaged, can also impact our water resources. According to Kitsap County, how much pet waste is deposited on the Kitsap Peninsula DAILY?

- A. 1 Ton B. 5 Tons
- C. 11 Tons D. 50 Tons

Answer: C. Kitsap County reports that 11 TONS of pet waste is deposited on the ground on the Kitsap Peninsula EVERY DAY. If you have a pet, please dispose of its waste properly.