

FAQ's About - Do-It-Yourself Homeowner Septic Inspection Program

How do I register?

Once you are on the Do-It-Yourself Septic Inspection website, click on the



box to verify your system is eligible for inspection and follow the instructions. When registering, please enter your email address carefully as typos will result in an incomplete registration and leave your account as pending. If you believe you have made an error you may log in and select the **Review or Edit Registration Information** button. Links to the step by step instructions ([General Instructions Page](#)) can be found on every page of the registration process.

What is my User ID?

Your User ID will be provided to you as part of the registration process. It is called an SOM number (Septic Operation Monitoring) and is directly linked to your septic system permit. If you own more than one septic system, you may have more than one SOM number. See Step 4 of the [General Instructions](#) for more information.

What if I forget my password or User ID?

Use the password/ID retrieval tool link found on the log-in page of the website.

REGISTERED USER LOGIN

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| User ID what's this? | Password |
| <input type="text" value="SOM"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <small>e.g. SOM09-50001</small> | |
| <input type="button" value="Log In"/> | I forgot my Password or User ID. |

Why do I need an email address?

- An email address is necessary to complete the registration and link you to the program. This is a security step to prevent someone else from signing up to report inspections of your septic system.
- Step 4 of the [General Instructions](#) has more information and guidance for setting up an email account if you do not have one.
- If you have an internet based email, like gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail, you can access the training from any location.

My computer is slow and seems to 'lock-up' when watching the videos. What can I do?

- This can happen if you have an older computer or have a slower internet service.
- If you have an internet based email, like gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail, you can access and complete the Homeowner Training from a location that has a higher speed internet connection such as the County Library or a Community Center. Contact the facility for their hours and bring headphones for listening to the video.

Why is some of the ownership or address information out of date?

The Homeowner Inspection database is always in the process of being updated. If you find it to be incorrect please contact [EH Staff](#) so updates can be made. The ownership and address information in the database has no impact on the registration process and is only provided for your confirmation that you are on the correct parcel.

If there is more than one SOM case (meaning multiple septic systems found on file) on my tax parcel Geo ID how do I determine which one reports to which septic system?

Use the Jefferson County online [Parcel Lookup Tool](#) to look up permits on your parcel and view the scanned septic system records at the Laserfiche link or contact us to assist you. At this time you may only register for one system online. Once you complete the training and obtain your Authorization to inspection contact [EH Staff](#) to register for the other systems you own. EH staff will verify your ownership and register you on the other SOM cases. There is no fee to register for additional systems.

Why isn't my system eligible for the Homeowner Inspection program?

- Some systems such as Glendon biofilters or those with aerobic treatment units or drip irrigation are proprietary devices with warranties that do not allow homeowner inspection and have specific requirements for inspection.
- Septic systems serving a Commercial business or a Food Establishment are not eligible for homeowner inspections due to the waste strengths associated with commercial activities. The Health Officer may consider an exception to this limitation on a case specific basis. Contact [EH Staff](#) for details.
- Systems for which there is not a permit or adequate records on file may require a professional to locate and submit a site plan prior to the homeowner becoming certified. The link below to the Jefferson County Environmental Health website provides additional information at ['O&M Section of JCC 8.15'](#)

What if I don't have time to watch the video after I register?

The video does not need to be viewed all at once. You may proceed at your own pace, exit the site if necessary, and return later using your SOM and PASSWORD to log in and return to the next step.

Why is the "Take the Test" button grayed-out once I complete the Registration Steps?

At this point in the registration process you MUST VIEW THE TRAINING VIDEOS TO PROCEED. If you have already viewed the videos, click on the "View Training Videos", and then on the next screen select the gray "Back" button. Always use the provided "Back" button links instead of your browser's back command.

What if I don't know where my septic system is located?

Use the Jefferson County online [Parcel Lookup Tool](#) to look up permits on your parcel and view the scanned septic system records at the Laserfiche link. If there is not a record available, you may need to call a professional to locate the system. The location drawing should then be submitted to the county.

Will someone be able to help me conduct my first inspection?

You may hire a professional inspector to help you, or buddy up and request help from someone who is already authorized. Remember, as a matter of safety: never inspect your septic system alone. Only the Authorized property owner can complete an inspection and file a report on their property.

How can I report that I had my tank pumped or fixed my risers?

- At the bottom of the inspection report you will have an opportunity to note that corrections are not needed, in progress, or complete, and to make additional comments.
- The inspection report should note actual conditions at the time of inspection, and any corrections made would be noted at the bottom of the page.

May I repair my septic system?

Yes but many things require a permit before you complete the repairs. Some things that require a permit are: replacing or installing a septic tank, installing or replacing drainrock in a drainfield trench, changing the electrical panel. Some things can be repaired or installed without a permit are access risers over the septic tank openings, replacing a broken or cracked solid line between the house and the tank or between the tank and the distribution box. Contact us at 360-385-9444 to get information on the particular repair needed.

May I do an inspection for a family member?

You may apply to perform the monitoring inspection for an infirm elderly, disabled parent or disabled immediate family member. The property owner must sign the application and acknowledgement that they are responsible for the inspection and complete the approved training unless waived by the Health Officer if circumstances do not allow the Owner to sign the application or take the training. You may not charge a fee or start a business unless certified by Jefferson County as an Operations and Monitoring Specialist.

May I do an inspection for a neighbor or friend?

No. You may only inspect the septic system on a property that you own. You may accompany and help another Authorized Homeowner Inspector to complete the inspection on their property – be their ‘buddy’.

What if I am authorized but then move to another home with a septic system?

You will need to verify the system eligibility for that parcel, watch the videos and take the exam to become the authorized inspector for that parcel.

Do I have to renew my authorization?

No. You only need to get re-authorized if a new or replacement system is installed on your property or if you move to another property with a septic system.

Are there any health or safety concerns if I inspect my own system?

Inspecting a septic system can expose you to odors, bacteria and physical hazards. Please read the [Septic Safety Tips](#) to learn more.

What types of materials or tools are needed to inspect my system?

The inspection can be completed with a minimal amount of tools, many of which you may already own, such as a tape measure, drill, gloves, a hose and buckets. A complete list of materials and instruction on how to make the scum/sludge measuring sticks are included in the [Field Guide](#).

How will Jefferson County Environmental Health use my inspection data?

Jefferson County Environmental Health maintains a permit database where this information will be stored. All Local Health Jurisdictions in Washington

State are required by the Department of Health to track and submit semi-annual data on the inspection status of septic systems within their jurisdiction. The information you submit will help Jefferson County meet those requirements. Personal information is not released. Inspection done by homeowners are available for you to view at the [SepticDIY](#) website. Inspections done by certified professionals is available at www.onlinerme.com

How will Jefferson County insure my inspection report is correct?

As inspection data is imported into our Permit Database we will review it for completeness. You will be contacted if your inspection indicates there is a problem with your system for follow-up. Environmental Health reserves the right conduct inspections for verification of accuracy.