

Individuals proposing to pump septic tanks in Snohomish County must first be certified by the Snohomish Health District (Health District). Certified pumpers may also conduct limited repairs and/or perform maintenance and monitoring on conventional gravity sewage systems. Septic Tank Pumpers who possess a certification from a county other than Snohomish must also be certified by the Health District prior to conducting business here.

Certification requires prospective pumpers to undergo an examination process. This process consists of two parts; the written exam and an oral interview.

The written exam is comprised of three sections consisting of a combination of true and false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. The exam is worth 100 points with a total of 70 points needed to pass. The exam may be taken anytime during our normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The length of time needed to complete the exam is approximately 2 hours. No resource materials, cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed during the exam, except for a small calculator.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review the Septic Tank Pumper's Manual and Snohomish Health District Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.50 available on the website links listed below prior to sitting for the exam.

An oral interview follows the successful completion of the written exam. The oral interview consists of meeting with a Health District sanitarian to discuss the results of the exam and to answer further questions. After successful completion of the oral interview, an application and appropriate fee must be submitted with a copy of a valid Department of Labor & Industries State Contractor's License prior to issuance of the operating certificate.

Certificates are valid for the calendar year in which they are applied for and are renewed annually.

- 1) [Septic Tank Pumper's Manual](#)
- 2) Snohomish Health District Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.50 <https://snohd.district.codes/SHDC/5.50>