



**THURSTON COUNTY**  
**WASHINGTON**  
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Cathy Wolfe  
District One  
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District Two  
Karen Valenzuela  
District Three

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **MEMORANDUM**

Sherri McDonald, RN, MPA,  
Director  
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH  
Health Officer

Date: August 29, 2011  
To: Designers, Installers and Interested Parties  
From: Brad Sangston, R.S.  
Technical Lead  
Subject: Proper Abandonment of Septic Tanks

It has come to our attention that industry professionals are, in some instances, pumping out the contents of existing septic tanks which are to be abandoned, and transferring them into newly installed septic tanks. Please refer to the following code requirements as stated in Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code:

- Section 19.2: Persons permanently removing a sewage tank, seepage pit, cesspool or other sewage container from service shall have the septage removed by a pumper.
- Section 20.1: Only pumpers certified by the Health Officer as per Section 23 may remove septage for disposal from an OSS.
- Section 20.2.3: A pumper removing septage from an OSS shall dispose of septage or apply septage biosolids to land only in a manner consistent with applicable laws.
- Section 23.8.2.5: Pumpers and pumping firms shall have the authority and be responsible for pumping sewage from a sewage tank and/or other OSS components and transporting and disposing of the septage at sites that have been approved by the Health Officer.

Effective October 1, 2011 all septic tank replacements and abandonments will require a Septic Tank Pumping Report prior to acceptance of a final Record Drawing or final abandonment approval.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (360) 867-2652.

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg 1; Olympia, Washington 98502-6045  
(360) 867-2673 FAX (360) 867-2660 TDD (360) 867-2603 TDD(800)-658-6384  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health)