



THURSTON
COUNTY

Washington
Est. 1852

Public Health & Social
Services
POLICY

Policy Title

Repair and Certification of Failing Sewage Tanks

<http://home/dept/health/phssdocuments/Policies/Policies%20-%20Environmental%20Health/ON-SITE%20-%20REPAIRS/Repair%20and%20Certification%20of%20Failing%20Sewage%20Tanks%20%20%20ONST.13.POL.607.pdf>

Number

ONST.21.POL.607

Effective Date

09/24/2021

Latest Approval Date

09/24/2021

Approved By

Art Starry

Next Review Date

09/24/2027

POLICY INTENT

Purpose

To assure failing or leaking sewage tanks are properly repaired or replaced

Scope

Insert "Organization Wide" or list the impacted office(s)/department(s)

☒ Internal Only ☐ Direct Impact to Citizens

**Are Office/Department Documents
on this subject permitted?**


☒ Yes, the policy clarifies regulations used only by the
Environmental Health Division – Sanitary Code Article IV,
WAC 246-272A and WAC 246-272C

☐ No

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Failing or leaking sewage tanks must be repaired or replaced.
2. Septic tanks made of materials that are prone to decay or collapse, or that are too small to provide adequate treatment, cannot be repaired and must be replaced. These tanks include metal, wooden, or block tanks, and tanks that are under 900 gallons in size.

Exception – Concrete sewage tanks that are less than 900 gallons in size may be repaired if they are installed in series and the total volume of all tanks exceeds 900 gallons.
3. Only Thurston County certified pumpers, installers, and monitoring specialists can repair a leaking or failing sewage tank.
4. All sewage tank repairs must be certified by Thurston County certified pumpers, installers, or monitoring specialists after the satisfactory completion of a 24-hour leak test.
 - A certified OSS professional must certify repairs that were made by an OSS owner or other non-certified individual.
5. Twenty-four (24) hour leak tests are required to verify the adequacy of sewage tank repairs. A leak test requires the tank be filled with water to the bottom of the outlet pipe. The levels should not drop within the 24-hour period. In the event a tank is found to be leaking after the 24-hour leak test, the tank must be repaired or replaced.
6. Poly tanks that have a puncture can be repaired only if the sewage tank manufacturer has reviewed and approved of the repair process and a 24-hour leak test is completed by a Certified OSS Professional.
7. The OSS professional who certifies the sewage tank repair must submit documentation to the Department via OnlineRME.
8. Sewage tanks that cannot be certified as watertight must be replaced.
9. Thurston County Environmental Health staff may, at their discretion, inspect sewage tank repairs.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS		
OSS WAC OnlineRME	On-Site Sewage System Washington Administrative Code Third Party Vendor which accepts electronic reports from OSS Professionals	
RELEVANT LAWS AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION		
County Code State Law State Rule Other Sources	Thurston County Sanitary Code Article IV -- Rules and Regulations of Thurston County Board of Health Governing Treatment and Dispersal of Sewage W.A.C. 262-272A and 246.272C	
Superseded Documents	ONST.13.POL.607	
Supporting Documents	n/a	
Related Documents	n/a	
Communication and Implementation Strategy	<p>The Policy Administrator will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the review of the Office/Department Documents to ensure consistency with this County-wide Document. • Send signed updated policy to OSS Professionals and Staff through Constant Contact e-mail. • Post signed updated policy to Division's OSS Professionals Webpage 	
POLICY ADMINISTRATION		
Policy Owner	Steve Petersen	
Contact Person (if different from above)	Program Manager, Environmental Health Division	
Roles and Responsibilities	Kathy Patton	Policy Administrator
REVISION HISTORY		
Effective Date	Approved By	Modifications
9/24/2021	 Art Starry, Environmental Health Director	Updated and clarified existing policy. Added repair options for poly tanks and tanks in series
Reviewers of the Current Revision	Brad Sangston, Steve Davies, Dawn Peebles, Amy Crass, Lyndsey Smith, Sean McGuire, Maggie Morehouse, Bill Dean	
FURTHER INFORMATION		
This section is not published on the final PDF document. It is for website purposes only		
Keywords for search engine	Sewage Tank, Repair, Leaking, Failure, Watertight	