



# GROUP B WATER SYSTEM NEWSLETTER



## Did you know?

You can search for a list of approved analytical laboratories here:  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/laboratorysearch/>



## Need help with sampling procedures?

Here's a helpful video:

<https://vimeo.com/786975340>

**Need help?**  
**Call (360)**  
**728-2235!**

## Storage tank maintenance/troubleshooting

Water storage tanks must be free of sanitary defects. Sanitary defects are risks to public health that include pathways for contaminants to enter the water system. These pathways of contamination are known to increase the risk of system contamination and illness.

1. Routinely inspect the tank for leaks, weather damage, vandalism, or animal activity.
2. For repairs, use only materials/sealant rated for contact with food or potable water.
3. Clean the top of the storage tank to make routine inspection easier. Debris such as branches and moss can add wear to the tank. Debris increases the risk of pathogen entry in case of a damaged screen or gasket.
4. Check the vent and overflow for sanitary defects, including missing/torn screens.
5. Once storage tanks reach the end of their useful lives they must be replaced. Plan ahead for replacement interval. Call or email us for help and information.



**For more information about maintaining storage tanks, visit DOH's resource page:**  
<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/water-system-assistance/group-b/resources>

## How do we protect the 100-foot sanitary control area around the well head?

Activities to avoid within 100 feet of the public wellhead include:

- Vehicle parking/washing/repair/servicing
- Storing chemicals, fertilizers, cleaners, pesticides, etc.
- Applying pesticides, fertilizers, manure, lawn & garden products
- Housing animals (hoof stock, poultry, rabbits, dogs, etc)
- Storing/stockpiling/composting manure/animal waste
- Allowing surface runoff to drain toward the well or creating conditions that could allow water to collect around the well

**Washington State Department of Health Sanitary Control Area guide:**  
<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/331-453.pdf>

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## Keeping pests out of the water system

Rodents, bats, birds, insects, spiders and other pests can damage water system equipment and contaminate the water supply.



1. Eliminate all entry points into buildings and other enclosures—plug all holes or openings larger than 1/4 inch and seal all cracks in walls or floors or openings around pipes, vents, cables or wires.
2. Screen vents with No. 24 non-corrodible mesh and point the vent down.
3. Screen storage tank overflows with No. 24 non-corrodible mesh.
4. Apply a layer of pea gravel at least six inches deep to fill gaps around any piping that penetrates the floor.
5. Install wallboard cover or remove exposed fiberglass insulation in your pump house or well enclosure to prevent nesting activity.
6. Make sure doors, windows and screens shut securely and fit tightly.
7. Keep the space under doors or between the walls and the floor less than 1/4 inch.
8. Ensure attic vents, cracks and holes under rotted eaves are sealed or screened to prevent bird and bat access.
9. Inspect your facilities regularly for signs of pest entry.



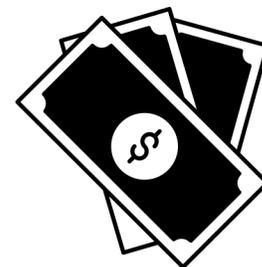
**Washington Department of Health has a comprehensive resource guide here:**

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//331-363.pdf>

## Planning for the future financial viability for small water systems

Financial viability is the ability to obtain sufficient funds to develop, construct, operate, maintain, and manage a public water system, with good public health outcomes as the ultimate goal. Apply solid business principles as tools in your system operation and compliance efforts, with the goal of safe and reliable water.

1. Develop an operating budget for a six year period.
2. Create and fund an emergency reserve.
3. Create and fund reserves for capital improvements.
4. Review your rates or monthly water system charges.



**Need more information? Visit Washington State Department of Health's guide here:**

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//331-405.pdf>

**WE'RE HERE  
TO HELP!**

- Visit us at 345 6th St., Suite 300 in Bremerton from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- Call us at 360-728-2235 during business hours and ask to speak to the Drinking Water Inspector of the Day.