

Press Release October 22, 2007

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## **Make Sure Your Septic System is in the Holiday Mood**

### **Septic Maintenance Workshop – November 5 PUD3 6-8pm**

The approaching holidays are often stressful for people. But how many homeowners realize that seasonal merriment can also stress their septic systems? Before shopping for that Thanksgiving turkey and those new bath towels for overnight visitors, savvy residents will make sure their septic systems are ready for the celebrations. WSU Mason County Extension Office and Mason County Public Health Department will conduct a free pre-holiday septic workshop on November 5th from 6-8pm at the PUD3 auditorium, 307 W. Cota in Shelton. The workshop (made possible by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology) will explain how septic systems work and how to make they are ready for all the action during the next few months.

Entertaining increases water use and all that extra dishwater and toilet flushing can overload a septic system at a time when drain fields are already working in soils saturated by rain. Overuse is the main cause of costly septic system failures. And overuse may result from too many loads of laundry in one day or from a leaky toilet, which can put an extra 800 gallons of water into a septic system in one day. Even a two year old septic system can fail from overuse. Participants in the workshop will learn what their systems can handle and how to prevent holiday overload.

Many big problems have very simple, inexpensive solutions. Sometimes a broken pipe can create big health and environmental issues for the homeowner who can with a little information make the repair. Participants will learn how to inspect their systems, how to make those simple repairs and even where to buy the necessary parts. And although a failed septic system can be expensive, a new program now available can provide low interest loans to many homeowners. Experts will explain what homeowners can do themselves and when to call in the experts.

Participants will also receive manuals and other reference material to take home, including information on what to do (and what NOT to do) when property floods. And for those homeowners unsure where their septic systems are or what kind they have, the

Mason County Public Health Department representative at the workshop can help research records to provide any information on file. Experts will answer all those questions that people hesitate to ask and provide contact information in case more questions arise in the future. This is the last WSU Mason County septic workshop this year, so sign up now. For more information on the workshop or to register, call (360) 427-9670 ext 680 or (360) 275-4467 ext. 680.

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