

FAQ continued.

RSS application for you, or if they will only upload their required O&M inspection report.

8. What if there is more than one septic system on the parcel?

We need a RSS application for each septic system on the parcel. If you submit both applications at the same time, the second RSS application is eligible for a discounted fee.

9. Why do both the septic company and the Health Department inspect the system?

The certified septic company inspects the septic system for mechanical operations, defects and proper function. The Health Department inspects the drain field, reserve areas and makes sure records and system types are accurate.

10. What happens if we don't complete an RSS?

The property owner is responsible to complete the RSS before the sale of their property. It is a violation of Health Department Health Code to close your property sale without an RSS and will lead to enforcement actions. The Health Department may record non-compliance against the property title. We will notify the new legal owner of the violation and require them to complete the RSS. It is in the best interest of the property owner to complete the RSS before sale to avoid potential septic system liabilities after sale.

Have a question or concern?

Contact us!

(253) 798-7392

EHSepticSystems@tpchd.org

www.tpchd.org/septic

3629 S. D St., MS 1035 Tacoma, WA 98418

For a list of certified septic service companies:

www.tpchd.org/septicservicecompanies

Find record drawing (as built) of your system:

(253) 798-6577

forms.tpchd.org/asbuilt.php

Selling Your Home?

If you're on a septic system, learn how to prepare for a home sale.





What is a Report of System Status and Why Do I Need One?

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department prepares a Report of System Status (RSS) that indicates the current condition of your septic system. If you have a septic system in Pierce County, you need to get a RSS when you sell your home.

Follow These Steps to Get a Report of System Status

Step 1: Get your septic system inspected and pumped.

- Contact a certified septic service company to request an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) inspection and tank(s) pumping.
- Find a list of certified companies at: www.tpchd.org/septicservicecompanies

Selling your home? You must get an RSS.

- Be sure to tell the company that the inspection is for the sale of the property.
- The company's O&M inspection report is valid for six months.

Step 2: Submit RSS application with fee.

- You can submit your application online by creating an account at: www.tpchd.org/o_and_m/
- You can complete an application in person or by mail. Include check or money order. Print applications at: www.tpchd.org/septic

Step 3: Expect a visit.

- Health Department staff will visit your property to inspect the drain field and reserve areas and to check that your system is in compliance.

Step 4: Get your RSS report.

- We can fax, mail or email you the completed report to the contact information you provide on your application.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I pay for the RSS fees online?

Visa or MasterCard

2. How long does it take to get the RSS report?

The Health Department's goal is to complete the RSS in ten business days. This can not be rushed or guaranteed.

3. Does the septic tank need to remain uncovered for the health department inspection?

No. Properly secure septic tank lids before the Health Department inspection.

4. How long is the RSS report valid?

12 months from the date issued.

5. Do I need to pump the septic tank before the property sale?

Yes. We require certified septic companies to pump all tanks at the time of inspection.

6. Who can submit the RSS application?

The homeowner, real estate agent, septic company or anyone authorized by the homeowner can submit the RSS application

7. Can the septic service company submit the RSS application?

Check with the septic company to see if they offer this service. Clarify with the septic company if they will submit the

FAQ continued on reverse page.