

Keeping our water clean.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT!

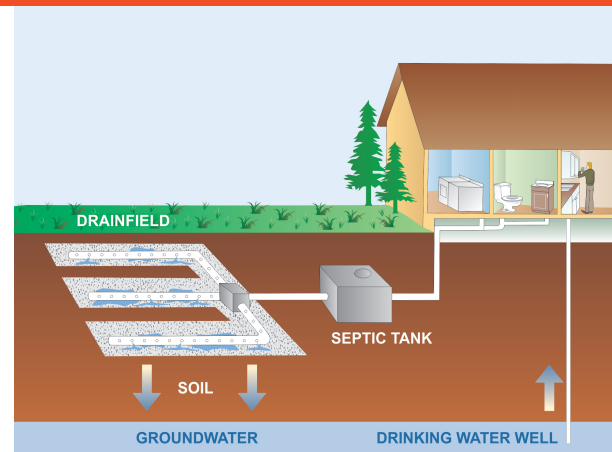
You can help keep our local water clean by preventing fecal coliform bacteria from reaching streams, rivers, lakes, and the Puget Sound. Your actions can make a positive impact on your family, pets, livestock, and neighbors, and help keep them healthy.

What's Wrong with the Water in the Lower Stillaguamish Watershed?

Areas of the Lower Stillaguamish Watershed have too much fecal bacteria in the water, which can make people and animals sick. When there is too much fecal bacteria in the adjacent marine waters, the shellfish are unsafe to eat and harvesting is closed. If septic systems are not maintained or animal waste is not adequately contained, the bacteria in the waste can run off the property during storms and drain into local waterways.

Maintain Your Septic System

- Inspect to make sure it is treating household sewage properly. Identify minor issues before they become large, expensive repairs. State regulations require gravity systems to be inspected every 3 years and all other systems to be inspected annually.
- Inspecting and pumping can prevent expensive failures such as a clogged drainfield or sewage backing up into the home.
- Did you know that using a garbage disposal increases the amount of solids in septic tanks, requiring more frequent pumping?
- To learn about what type of septic system you have, how to care for it, and learn about resources to help you have it inspected regularly and maintained, check out the following websites:
 - snohd.org/165/Septic-Maintenance
 - snohd.org/159/As-Built-Records
 - snohd.org/164/Septic-Contractors
 - savvyseptic.org



(Snohomish County Surface Water Management)

We are inviting residents in this area to learn about and make use of available resources to help manage livestock, pick up pet waste, and make sure their septic systems are functioning properly.

Horse and other livestock owners

To keep our water clean, use these livestock “big three” best management practices:

- (1) Fence livestock away from streams and ditches.
- (2) Install a heavy use area (winter paddock) to protect pastures from damage in winter months.
- (3) Install a covered manure storage structure to prevent contaminated runoff from reaching waterways.



THESE PRACTICES IMPROVE CHORE EFFICIENCY, TOO!

Learn more or request assistance at snohomishcd.org/sound-farms

- **Pet owners** – Whether at home or out with your pets, make sure to scoop the poop, bag it, place it in the trash, and wash your hands.
- **Streamside landowners** – Maintain or plant native vegetation along shorelines and prevent chemicals and other pollutants from washing into waterways.
- **Recreational users** – Follow “**Leave No Trace**” ethics. Pack out all of your trash. Dig a cathole and bury human waste 6 inches deep and 200 feet from a waterway when needed. Learn more at [Int.org](https://www.lnt.org).

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is used to identify top priority areas with high levels of fecal coliform bacteria which affect water quality and shellfish.

Services and Financial Assistance Available

The Lower Stillaguamish River PIC Phase 3 Project is led by the Snohomish Conservation District, in partnership with Snohomish County, Snohomish Health District, the Stillaguamish Tribe, and other partners listed below. To protect and restore water quality in the Lower Stillaguamish River Watershed and the shellfish beds in Port Susan and South Skagit Bays, we are providing services and financial assistance for agricultural best management practices and on-site septic system maintenance and repairs.



(Credit: Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians)

You can help ensure that there is cleaner and healthier water for your family and neighbors.

Visit <https://snohomishcd.org/stilly-pic>.

LEARN MORE

snohomishcd.org/stilly-pic
savvyseptic.org
snohomishcountywa.gov/3058/Shellfish-Protection

Questions?

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Washington State Department of Agriculture

