



Summary: Whatcom County code varies from WAC language and is tailored to our local community. We cannot adopt any language less stringent than what is specified in the WAC. However, there is specific language in WCC 24.05 that can be adjusted or included to protect public health and improve stewardship of groundwater, surface water and soil resources.

Below includes a description of major changes to Onsite Sewage System codes and the entity proposing those changes including the associated code sections.

Summary of Specific Changes of Significance		
Entity	Proposed Change	Section
DOH & WCHCS	Major & Minor Repairs Definition Changes Some repairs now need a permit such as sealing or patching a septic tank. Included basic definitions and refined previous definitions.	24.05.050 Definitions. 24.05.160 Permit requirements.
DOH	Minimum Lot Size Requirements/ Minimum Usable Land More land is needed for a septic system and plans will need to identify the surface area of “unusable land area” such as the radius of a well, surface water, or buildings with foundations.	24.05.360 Developments, subdivisions, and minimum land area requirements.
DOH	Nitrogen Reduction Systems need to treat for nitrogen in some areas and depending on the lot size.	24.05.360 Developments, subdivisions, and minimum land area requirements.
WCHCS	Soil log requirements for developments, subdivisions, and minimum land area. A soil log provides designers and inspectors with an understanding of the soil quality. Some designers only provide a small post dug whole which does not provide adequate representation of the drain field area.	24.05.360 Developments, subdivisions, and minimum land area requirements.
WCHCS	Codify a process Requirement of a homeowner exemption packet when homeowners self-install. Currently, there needs to be a process control for when homeowners install their own septic system. Similarly to that of an installer, homeowners need to meet standards to install a system.	24.05.250 Installation.
WCHCS	Licensing Continuing Education Credit for OSS specialists, installers and pumpers will go from 3 to 1 annually. Requirement of septage reporting deadline	24.05.380 Licensing.
DOH	Climate impacts are required to be included in the local management plan.	24.05.070 Local management plans.
WCHCS	Restaurants flow and waste strength sampling requirement. Most restaurants are on complex OSS that have been specifically designed for certain waste strengths and flow. If the system is surpassing this measures, then sewage is not being	24.05.290 Operation, monitoring, and maintenance – Food service establishments.

	treated appropriately. These requirements also align with DOH Large Onsite Sewage System standards.	
WCHCS	Permits and Repair Tank only permits need to be associated with a permitted drain field. Previously, tank only permits could be connected to a non-permitted drain field to fix a failure. Now if there isn't a permit for the drain field, the drain field will also need to be replaced.	24.05.160 Permit requirements.
WCHCS & DOH	Site plan design requirements additional required elements on the site plan have been included to ensure site plans show all needed features to ensure the OSS can actually be installed as designed.	24.05.160 Permit requirements.
WCHCS & DOH	Applications will expire in one year if no further action is taken by the applicant. Permits will expire in 4 years rather than 3 years.	24.05.160 Permit requirements
DOH	There are new failure OSS Options when Site is not suitable. Now if vertical separation cannot be maintained it is recommended to pursue holding tanks and ecology discharge permits.	24.05.310 Repair of failures.
DOH	Added option that Local Health Officer may develop a remediation policy. Added minimum requirements for remediation. Added prohibition on owners using any remediation process unless it is approved by the LHO.	24.05.300 Remediation
DOH	Proprietary products may be retrofitted with components they were not tested with if there is a supply chain or other manufacturing disruption. The manufacturer must provide a statement from an engineer that the retrofit will not impact OSS performance or maintenance.	24.05.090 Sewage Technologies
DOH	Treatment level categories have changed in nomenclature bacteria level.	Throughout