



# Petition for Rulemaking

## WAC 246-272A-0240, Holding Tank Sewage Systems – On-Site Sewage

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WASHINGTON STATE   
**BOARD OF HEALTH**



# Petition for Rulemaking

- Requests that the rule allow for external storage of septic waste in approved containers of at least 200 gallons with a valid pumping contract.
  - States that this is legal with sanicans (portable toilets), but that sanicans are unsafe, inconvenient, and harder to keep clean and secure.
  - Claims that this change is needed because too many people illegally dump waste.
  - States that the rule is inconsistent, as some counties allow this, but others do not.





# WAC 246-272A-0240 – Holding Tank Sewage Systems

(1) A person may not install or use holding tank sewage systems for residential development or expansion of residences, whether seasonal or year-round, except as set forth under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The local health officer may approve installation of holding tank sewage systems only:

(a) For permanent uses limited to controlled, part-time, commercial usage situations, such as recreational vehicle parks and trailer dump stations;

(b) For interim uses limited to handling of emergency situations; or

(c) For repairs as permitted under WAC [246-272A-0280](#) (1)(c)(i).

(3) A person proposing to use a holding tank sewage system shall:

(a) Follow design criteria established by the department;

(b) Submit a management program to the local health officer assuring ongoing operation, monitoring and maintenance before the local health officer issues the installation permit; and

(c) Use a holding tank reviewed and approved by the department.





# Class A Waivers – Department of Health Guidance

Local Health Officers may grant waivers to WAC 246-272A-0240(2)

- “Holding tank used for other than part-time, non-residential use”
- Minimum criteria includes:
  - Holding tank design criteria – must be consistent with recommended standards and on the “approved list”
  - Performance assurance of system – Established management program, which assures the on-going proper operation and maintenance of the system



# Recommendation

Decline the petition for rulemaking to amend WAC 246-272A-0240.

- Department of Health guidance provides a process for these to be allowed, with necessary protections and broad discretion granted to county health officials.
- Previous versions of the rule allowed these systems for seasonal use, and there were many problems that led to the current restrictions.
- Ongoing maintenance is impractical and expensive.
- Further research on capacity to pump these tanks is underway.

# THANK YOU

To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110, or by email at [wsboh@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:wsboh@sboh.wa.gov) | TTY users can dial 711



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