

CRD Bylaw 3479 – North Saanich

Information Sheet

Onsite Sewage System Maintenance Bylaw 3479

North Saanich joined CRD Bylaw 3479 for the regulation and maintenance of onsite sewage systems, often called septic systems. The purpose is to ensure systems are regularly maintained to protect the natural environment. Regular maintenance also extends the lifespan of septic systems in areas where sewers are unavailable.

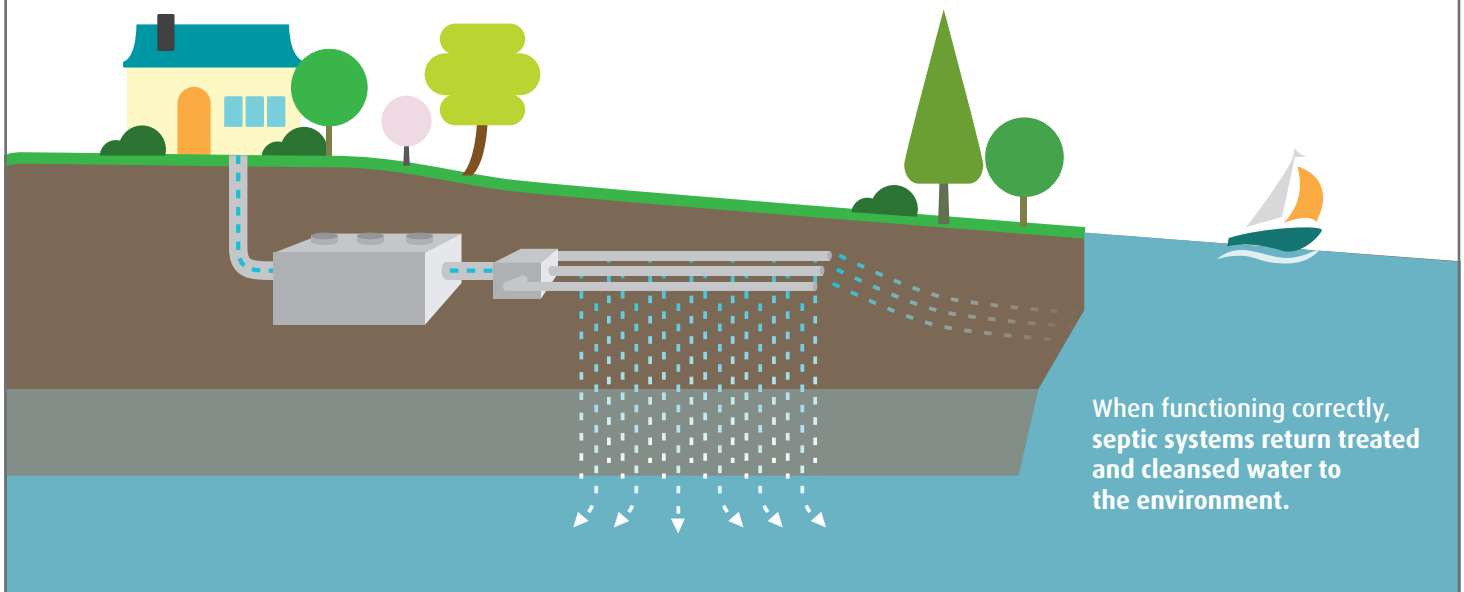
Environmental monitoring results indicate that malfunctioning septic systems contribute to marine water and stormwater runoff contamination in North Saanich. Current and historical data indicate elevated fecal bacteria from human sources entering marine waters and high bacteria concentrations in some upstream ditches. In some cases, sources have been traced to properties with malfunctioning septic systems.

What kind of system do I have?

Under provincial regulations there are three types of systems, each with different maintenance requirements.

- **Type 1:** Treatment by a septic tank and dispersal field only (either gravity fed or pumped).
- **Type 2:** Treatment that produces a higher quality effluent, often a package treatment plant.
- **Type 3:** Treatment that produces an even higher quality effluent, often a package treatment plant with additional treatment such as ultraviolet disinfection.

Owners can obtain their system records through **Island Health** at 250.519.3401 or email gateway_office@islandhealth.ca (a \$50 fee applies).



What do I need to do?

Type 1 Systems

Owners of Type 1 systems are required to have their system pumped out every five years.

If you do not have a record of your last pump out you are required to pump out **by March 2027**.

Five years is intended to be a maximum time frame; many systems require more frequent pumping depending on the size of the tank and the activities in your home i.e., every 2-5 years.

The sewage receiving facility will notify the CRD of your pump out; however, owners are advised to keep receipts as proof of service. Owners may be required to submit these to the CRD if there is an error or omission.

Type 2 & 3 Systems

Owners of Type 2 or Type 3 systems are required to have their system maintained by an Authorized Person at least once per calendar year beginning in 2026. They are also required to follow the maintenance plan for the system, which may require more frequent maintenance i.e., quarterly.

A CRD Certification of Maintenance form must be completed by an Authorized Person and submitted to the CRD annually. A copy of this form must also be retained by owners and be available to the CRD upon request. Many service providers will submit these forms to the CRD on the owner's behalf.

Bylaw Requirements at a Glance

Type 1 Systems



- Pump out your system
- The pump out will be reported to CRD by the septage treatment facility
- Keep records

Type 2 & 3 Systems



- From 2026 onwards, have an **Authorized Person** maintain the system **annually**
- Submit the Certification of Maintenance form to CRD
- Keep records

Capital Regional District

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