



# SEPTIC TANK LID SAFETY



## PREVENT INJURY AND DEATH



People accidentally fall into septic tanks. In most cases, the person who falls in gets out without serious injury. But a child's tragic death is a reminder to inspect your septic system for damaged or missing lids.

Take these precautions to make sure no one accidentally falls into your septic tank:

- ⇒ Know where your septic system lids or covers are located.
- ⇒ Routinely inspect the condition of the lids for hazards or problems.
- ⇒ Keep the lids secure by repairing or replacing all damaged or missing parts.
- ⇒ Use bolts, screws, or other locks to secure the lids and prevent easy access.
- ⇒ Never drive or park vehicles on top of septic systems – it can damage or dislodge the cover.
- ⇒ Never leave an open lid unattended when inspecting or having your septic system pumped. Make sure the lids are secured after working on your septic system.

Teach children that the septic tank lids are not to be played on or opened.

## FINDING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Many septic systems have openings with lids that are clearly visible at ground level. They may be metal, plastic, or cement, and can be circular or rectangular, about 2-4 feet wide. But if you can't find the opening to your septic tank, contact your local health department ([www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth](http://www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth)) to see if they have a map of your septic tank location. If the local health department doesn't have a record on file, contact a professional septic system company to help you find it.

### Wastewater Management Section

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