



WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
**O&M SPECIALIST
LICENSE PROCEDURE**

509 Girard Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Telephone: 360-676-6724
Fax: 360-676-6771

How to obtain an Operations and Maintenance Specialist License

Licensing Procedures

Applicant must:

- Take an exam and receive a passing score of 70% or higher.

Upon passing, applicant must:

- Complete an application for license and pay an annual licensing fee of \$200.00 to Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD).
- File with WCHD a surety bond, minimum \$2,000, specifically for Operation and Maintenance activities.

The test is valid for 30 days. After receiving a passing score, you have 30 days to complete the licensing requirements. Any attempt to become licensed after 30 days will require a new test be paid for and passed.

Examination procedures

Exams are given by appointment only. Contact the WCHD at (360) 676-6724 to schedule an appointment. The exam has a three-hour time limit. The cost to take the exam is \$100.00.

It is highly recommended you attend training classes prior to examination.

Classes are available through WSEHA – Washington State Environmental Health Association and WOSSA – Washington On-site Sewage Association. It is also recommended that applicants be familiar with solving timer problems.

WSEHA – Washington State Environmental Health Association

Phone # (360) 738-8946

Website <http://www.wseha.org/>

WOSSA – Washington On-site Sewage Association

Phone # (253) 770-6594

Website <http://www.wossa.org/>

Recommended study Materials

The **Whatcom County Health Department Rules and Regulations WCC 24.05** are available in our office or on our website at http://www.whatcomcounty.us/health/environmental/sewage_systems/pdf/oss_regulations_revised.pdf

The **Washington State Board of Health Rules/and Regs Chapter 246-272A WAC** and the **Washington State Recommended Standard and Guidance** are available through the Washington State Dept of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WW/pubs-ww.htm>

Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: An Operation and Maintenance Service Provider Program Second Edition, CIDWT, June 2008.

Additional recommended reading:

Salvato, Joseph A., et al. "Environmental Engineering" 5th Edition, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2003, Chapter 4 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal, pp 535-753.

License Renewals

O&M Specialist License will expire on December 31st. Fees are not prorated. An invoice for renewal is generated at the end of each year.

Three continuing education units (CEU's) shall be required every three years for license renewal. Applicant shall provide proof to the health officer that continuing education courses were attended.

Come January 31st, if you fail to pay your renewal fee and provide a copy of your bond (if expired), your license will expire and can not be renewed. Also following the third year of being licensed, should you fail to provide verification of CEU's, your license will not be renewed and will have expired effective December 31st.

If you want to be licensed once again, all testing, application and fees must be completed again to be reinstated.