

Whenever the use of an onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system is discontinued following connection to a sanitary sewer, the system shall be abandoned. Once abandonment has been completed, any further use of the system for any purpose is prohibited

Septic tank abandonment requires permitting and inspection.

Septic tank abandonments must be completed 90 days following connection to public sewer.

Important information for the homeowner

Florida Department of Health - Lee County

Environmental Health & Engineering Section

690-2100



Septic System Abandonment

When you connect to a sanitary sewer system, you must properly abandon your septic tank

- Avoid a safety hazard
- Preserve our groundwater
- Protect the environment

Procedures for homeowners to abandon their septic system are as follows:

- Contact your local utilities office for sewer connection permit and connection requirements.
- Contact the Lee County Health Department, Environmental Health Section for an abandonment permit. The cost of a septic tank abandonment permit is \$100.00.
- Have the septic tank pumped out by a licensed septage hauler.
- Crush or collapse the tank in a manner that will prevent the vessel from holding water, either by punching a hole in the bottom of the tank or collapsing its side walls. This work can only be done by a licensed septic contractor, a licensed plumbing contractor, or the owner of the single-family residence.
- Fill the remaining hole with clean sand or other suitable material to prevent a safety hazard, then grade and stake the former tank site.
- After ALL of these procedures have been completed, call the Health Department for inspection at:
(239) 690-2100.
- When requesting the inspection, please say you are requesting an abandonment inspection. Provide the
 - Permit number
 - Address
 - Contractor name

Grease traps when used with a commercial septic system, will remain part of the building sewage system and WILL NOT BE ADANDONED

Septic System Abandonment Option A

Recommended steps for putting a 12-inch hole in the bottom of a septic tank.

1. Have the tank pumped by a licensed septic tank pumper.
2. Wearing protective eye and face shield, crush or remove the entire top of the tank.
3. Wearing protective eye and face shield, punch a minimum 12-inch diameter hole in the bottom of the tank.
4. Place the end of a straight pole or PVS pipe into the 12-inch diameter hole in the bottom of the tank, long enough to extend above the final surface grade.
5. Fill the remaining hole with clean sand or other suitable material to prevent a safety hazard, then grade and stake the former tank site

Option B

Recommended steps for collapsing a septic tank wall.

1. Have the tank pumped by a licensed septic tank pumper.
2. Wearing protective eye and face shield crush or remove the entire top of the tank.
3. Dig a minimum nine-inch-wide trench along the outside wall of the tank which is furthest from the drainbed.
4. Wearing protective eye and face shield use a sledgehammer to break apart and collapse the wall to the bottom of the tank.
5. Fill the remaining hole with clean sand or other suitable material to prevent a safety hazard, then grade and stake the former tank site

Mound and drainfield removal

If you choose to remove the drainfield as part of the abandonment of your system:

The spoil material (any part of the existing drainfield components, any adjacent soil material within 24 inches vertically (above and below) and 12 inches horizontally (on the sides), AND ANY SOIL THAT HAS VISIBLE SIGNS OF EFFLUENT, may not be used in the system abandonment in any manner, and must be disposed of according to code.

Spoil material taken off site shall be disposed of in a permitted landfill or shall be limed and stockpiled for at least 30 days to prevent a sanitary nuisance. Offsite spoil material stockpile areas shall meet the prohibition requirements of rule 62-701-300(2), F.A.C. The resulting lime treated material shall not be used for drainfield repair or to fill an abandoned tank, or construction of any onsite sewage treatment and disposal system.

Mineral aggregate and soil in spoil material may, at the option of the septic tank contractor and property owner, be buried on site if limed before burial. Lime amount must be sufficient to preclude a sanitary nuisance. Depth of the seasonal high-water table to spoil material must be at least six inches. Setbacks of buried spoil material shall be the same as for onsite sewage treatment and disposal system drainfields. A minimum of six inches of slightly or moderately limited soil shall cover the spoil material and shall extend to at least five feet around the perimeters of the burial site.

Questions?

Call 239-690-2100