



DPS

**Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services**

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Guidelines - Septic System Abandonment

The following is a step-by-step process for proper abandonment of an existing septic system:

1. Prior to the start of any work, the property owner or contractor should contact the Well and Septic office to request a copy of the septic system permit on file for the subject property. Depending on the age of the dwelling, a permit may not necessarily be available.
2. The septic tank should be pumped out by a licensed scavenger and crushed in place or removed from the site, depending on its proximity to potential future improvements.
3. The contractor should confirm the location of the drain field (septic trenches and/or drywells) and the extent of contaminated soils.
4. For any area of the drainfield within 20 feet of a proposed house foundation, any liquid remaining must be pumped out by a licensed scavenger. This portion of the drainfield must then be excavated to locate the contaminated material including the drainfield's crushed limestone.
5. Solid material excavated from the drainfield must be spread out over the ground, allowed to dry, and covered with lime to kill any remaining bacteria. The area should be secured to prevent human and animal contact. When completely dry, the material should then be incorporated with regular fill and used on-site in a location away from the water quality structures and/or individual water supplies; or the material may be hauled off-site to an approved disposal location.
6. The contractor performing the septic system abandonment should submit a detailed report of the work performed to DPS Well and Septic office upon completion.