



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
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Septic System Abandonment

Your septic system has served an important function. This on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system allowed your property to be developed when municipal sewer was not available at your location. Now that you are connecting to municipal sewer you will want to take the proper steps for abandoning your septic system. Following are steps for proper abandonment per Title V of the State Environmental Code 301 CMR 15.354:

1. Within 14 days prior to discontinuance of use of a system, the facility owner shall apply to the Approving Authority (Board of Health) to abandon the existing system citing the reason(s) abandonment is necessary, and where connection to municipal or private sanitary sewer has been made, a copy of the sewer connection permit shall be submitted with the application.
2. Upon receipt of the Approving Authority's written approval to abandon the system, the septic tank shall be pumped of its entire contents by a licensed septage hauler.
3. The tank shall be excavated and removed from the site, or the bottom of the tank shall be opened or ruptured after being pumped of its content so as to prevent retainage of water and the tank shall be completely filled with clean sand or other suitable material approved in writing by the local Approving Authority.

Rarely are septic tanks or drain fields excavated and removed from a site. If system components must be removed, caution must be used and the excavated materials should always be handled and disposed of properly.

Improperly abandoned septic tanks can pose hazards and create undesirable situations. Tanks that have collapsed pose safety hazards for people and pets. Tanks that are not properly abandoned may fill with water over time. This can impact or prevent plans for future additions or renovations at your house. Improperly abandoned tanks may not be able to support the weight of vehicular traffic, building foundations, or other structures built on the property.

The following is a list of telephone numbers that may aid in the proper abandonment of your septic system:

City of Marlborough Board of Health: 508-460-3751
City of Marlborough Inspectional Services: 508-460-3776