



Ashland County Health Department

Sewage Treatment System abandonment procedure required as per OAC 3701-29-21.

The existing sewage treatment system must be disconnected from the dwelling and properly abandoned when it is no longer in use. The liquid and solids contents of the existing septic tank must be pumped and removed by a registered septage hauler. The liquid and solid contents removed from the system components are to be disposed of in a manner consistent with and approved by the Ashland County Health Department policy and protocol pertaining to the management of septage.

Upon removal of the contents, the components of the existing sewage treatment system shall be properly abandoned by one of the following methods:

1. The top must either be completely removed or collapsed and at least one side collapsed to prevent containment of water in the abandoned tank or component. The resulting void must be filled to the ground surface with inert and nonhazardous materials (i.e., gravel or other coarse aggregate) or soil in an amount and manner that compensates for settling and prevents ponding of surface water

NOTE: It is not necessary to physically remove the tanks or components from the ground. The remnants of the collapsed tanks can be allowed to remain underground. It is recommended that a gallon of household chlorine bleach or a bag of agricultural lime be dispersed throughout the remnants of all collapsed components prior to backfilling. After collapsing the tank, the original grade of the property should be restored by filling the excavation to the ground surface with native soil and then compacting the soil as much as possible. The area directly over the excavation may need to be slightly mounded with soil initially to allow for future settling. Mounding the soil will help prevent water from collecting in this area of the property and will encourage surface water to properly drain away.

2. The tank or component must be filled with compacted inert material of sufficient strength and volume to prevent settling, collection of water, and/or collapse. All access points to the abandoned tank or component must be permanently secured or sealed.

3.

NOTE: In the event a building, driveway, etc. is directly over a portion of the tank or component, the tank or component can be thoroughly pumped and filled with an inert material, such as sand or gravel. The tank or component should be filled with a material that will only allow for a minimal amount of settling. This material must support the interior surfaces of the tank or component to prevent the tank or component from collapsing and causing property damage and a potential safety concern. Left-in-place sewer piping should be filled by injecting or pumping a flowable material such as grout, cement or concrete or expanding polymer foam to seal void areas.

The Ashland County Board of Health requires a permit be obtained for abandonment of a sewage treatment system. The board of health must be notified in writing within thirty (30) days after the sewage treatment has been properly abandoned.

The following information must be provided on a form prescribed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health and will be retained by the Ashland County Health District:

1. The owner and location of the abandoned sewage treatment system and the date of abandonment.
2. The name of the registered septage hauler that removed the contents of the tanks; and
3. The name of the person or registered installer that performed the abandonment and the way the tank was abandoned or removed.

For questions, please contact the Ashland County Health Department-Environmental Division at 419-282-4275 or 419-282-4337

