



Contra Costa Environmental Health
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WELL DESTRUCTION GUIDELINES

In order to protect groundwater resources for current and future users, the elimination of abandoned, unused or defective wells is necessary. State and local regulations govern the procedure for eliminating these wells. These requirements are applicable to abandoned wells, test holes, dry holes, cone penetrometers, hydropunches and soil borings. A permit from Contra Costa Environmental Health is required to destroy a well in Contra Costa County. The law requires that such work be performed by a licensed, insured and bonded well contractor (C-57 license). **NOTE:** There is no permit fee required to destroy an existing water well if a new well is drilled. The following is a chronological summary of the destruction process:

1. Application, Plot Plan and Permit Fee

To apply for a well destruction permit, submit a completed application, plot plan, and permit fee to Contra Costa Environmental Health. Application forms are available at the Division's office. Instructions for preparing the plot plan are on the reverse side of the application. If you have any questions about completing the application or preparing any acceptable plot plan, please contact this office for assistance.

2. Permit Processing

Environmental Health staff will review the permit application and if acceptable a permit will be issued.

3. Destruction Procedure

Once the permit has been issued the authorized work can begin. A copy of the approved permit must be kept somewhere on the job site. This is to ensure that it is available for reference by the work crew should questions arise:

A general outline of the process is as follows:

- a. Remove any obstructions from the well.
- b. Perforate or remove the well casing to the bottom of the well.
- c. Excavate around the casing to a depth of 6 feet.
- d. Place approved sealing material in the well extending from the bottom to the surface. Environmental Health staff will inspect this stage of the work. The well contractor is responsible for contacting Contra Costa Environmental Health to schedule inspection appointments. The greater the advance notice, the more likely a mutually convenient inspection appointment can be arranged.

NOTE: Some well destructions will require deeper perforations and depth of sealing material.

4. Final Approval

Upon satisfactory completion of the work permitted and submittal of a Well Completion Report (DWR 188 form) a final destruction approval will be given.