

WELL ABANDONMENT

- (a)** Every well whose use or construction has been discontinued shall be abandoned in accordance with these rules.
- (b)** When any well is temporarily removed from service or before any well is put into service, it shall be sealed with a watertight cap or seal so that it cannot easily be removed by hand.
- (c)** The well shall be maintained whereby it is not a source or channel of contamination during temporary abandonment.
- (d)** Every temporarily abandoned well shall be protected with a casing.
- (e)** Any well that is a source or channel of contamination shall be repaired or permanently abandoned within 30 days of receipt of an order from the Health Director.
- (f)** The drilling contractor shall permanently abandon any well in which the casing has been removed before removing his equipment from the site.
- (g)** Any well not in compliance with the conditions for temporary abandonment shall be brought into compliance or permanently abandoned within 30 days of receipt of notice from the Health Director.
- (h)** The well owner shall be responsible for permanent abandonment of a well except:
 - (1)** As otherwise specified in these rules; or
 - (2)** If well abandonment is required because the driller improperly locates, constructs, or completes the well, in which case the driller is responsible for abandoning the well.

PERMANENT ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES

- (1)** Drilled or dug/bored wells constructed into unconsolidated material.
 - (A)** For wells that do not have standing water in them at any time during the year:
 - (i)** Remove all plumbing or piping entering the well, along with any obstructions in the well;
 - (ii)** Remove as much of the well casing as possible and then fill the entire well up to land surface with clean sand, silt, clay or any combination thereof.
 - (B)** For wells that do have standing water in them during all or part of the year:
 - (i)** Remove all plumbing or piping into the well, along with any obstructions inside the well;
 - (ii)** Using a 70% hypochlorite solution (such as HTH), disinfect the well in accordance with Section VI of these rules;
 - (iii)** Remove as much of the well casing as possible, but no less than to a depth of three **(3)** feet below land surface;
 - (iv)** All soil or other subsurface material present down to the top of, and extending on all sides to at least 6 inches outside of, the remaining well casing shall be excavated from the well;
 - (v)** Fill the well up to the top of the remaining casing with clean sand, silt, or clay;
 - (vi)** Pour a one (1) foot thick concrete or cement plug that fills the entire excavated area above the top of the casing, including the area extending on all sides of the casing out to a length of at least six (6) inches;
 - (vii)** Complete the abandonment process by filling the remainder of the well above the concrete or cement plug with fill dirt.
- (2)** Drilled or dug/bored wells constructed in consolidated material or bedrock:
 - (A)** Remove all plumbing or piping entering the well, along with any obstructions inside the well;

- (B)** Using a solution that contains at least 70% hypochlorite, disinfect the well in accordance with Section VI of these rules. Do not use a common commercial household liquid bleach, as this is too weak a solution to ensure proper disinfection;
- (C)** Remove as much of the well casing as possible, but to no less than a depth of three (3) feet below land surface;
- (D)** All soil or other subsurface material present down to the top of the well casing, and extending to a length of at least six (6) inches outside of the well casing on all sides, shall be excavated from the well;
- (E)** Fill the well with clean sand, silt, clay or stone to within no less than five (5) feet of the top of the rock;
- (F)** Fill the well with cement up to no less than five (5) feet above the top of the rock;
- (G)** Fill the well with clean sand, clay, or silt up to top of remaining casing;
- (H)** Pour a one (1) foot thickness concrete or cement plug that fills the entire excavated area above the top of the casing fill material, including the area extending on all sides of the casing to a length of at least six (6) inches;
- (I)** Complete the abandonment process by filling the remainder of the well above the concrete or cement plug with fill dirt.

RECORDS REQUIRED

(a) Reports

- (1)** Any person completing or abandoning any well in Chatham County shall submit to the Health Director and to the well owner a record of the construction or abandonment to include the owner's name; the well's location, size and depth; the casing record; the method of finishing or abandoning; formation log; static water level; pumping water level; yield; pump type; capacity and setting; and date of completion or abandonment.
- (2)** The reports required in (a) (1) shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after completing construction or abandonment.
- (3)** Reports shall be certified by signature of the contractor or persons completing the construction or abandonment.