

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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REQUIREMENTS FOR WELL DESTRUCTION OR INACTIVATION

Santa Barbara County Ordinance, Chapter 34A, regulates the construction, modification, destruction, and inactivation of water wells in this county in order to prevent contamination or pollution of the groundwater resources. The Environmental Health Services Division is given the responsibility for enforcing the ordinance requirements.

If a water well is taken out of service and not intended to be used in the future, it is necessary to properly destroy that well under permit and inspection by Environmental Health Services.

The well must be destroyed by a Licensed Contractor with a Well Driller's License (C-57) who follows the procedures outlined in the State Guidelines for this process, including:

1. Removal of the pump, electrical wiring, and any piping.
2. Excavation around the casing to a depth of 6 feet with the well casing cut off to the bottom of the excavation.
3. Filling the lower portion of the well with inert, clean material such as sand or gravel.
4. Filling the top 20 feet of the well casing with concrete/cement materials as approved by Environmental Health Services.
5. Backfilling the excavation with native soil.

If the well is to be used in the future for an observation well, injection well or monitoring well, it is necessary to obtain a permit for inactivation of the water well and meet the following criteria:

1. The owner shall submit a "letter of intent" to Environmental Health Services stating what purpose is intended for the well in the future.
2. The well shall have no defects which would allow degradation of water quality in the water-bearing formation penetrated.
3. The well is covered such that the cover is watertight and cannot be removed except with the aid of tools.
4. The well is protected, marked, and the area kept clear of brush and debris.

Please contact Environmental Health Services for permit information or additional data on these requirements.

Attachment: Diagram of Well Destruction

Requirements for the Destruction of a Water Well

