

County of Santa Clara

Department of Environmental Health

Consumer Protection Division

1555 Berger Drive, Suite 300

San Jose, CA 95112-2716

Phone (408)918-3400 Fax (408)258-5891

Website: www.EHinfo.org Email: dehweb@deh.sccgov.org



Septic Tank Abandonment Procedures

If the septic tank is being abandoned as part of a public sanitary sewer connection, the septic tank abandonment inspection may be conducted by the County of Santa Clara Building Department for the unincorporated areas, or by local jurisdictions building department. Please contact the applicable jurisdiction to determine if their agency will conduct the abandonment inspection prior to submittal to DEH.

To abandon a septic tank, you must first obtain a permit from the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health Land Use Program at www.ehinfo.org/wastewater. The application and site plan with location of the septic tank to be abandoned can be submitted to dehweb@cep.sccgov.org. An invoice for the permit will be emailed to the applicant, and must be paid prior to making an appointment.

Call (408) 918-3400 to speak to a Land Use Specialist to schedule an inspection. The Land Use Program must be notified a minimum of two (2) working days prior to commencement of work.

If you are replacing a septic tank with a new one, obtain a septic repair permit with the Santa Clara County Land Use Program at www.ehinfo.org/wastewater

To destroy a septic tank in place:

1. Septic tank must be pumped by a permitted hauler and receipt must be submitted for review. Pumping into the public sanitary sewer system is not allowed.
2. Septic tank lids must be removed from property.
3. A minimum 4-inch diameter hole must be made in the bottom of each septic tank compartment or the bottom of the septic tank must be broken up to allow for drainage.
4. The septic tank inlet and outlet pipes must be plugged, capped, or cut off.
5. Call for inspection.
6. After inspection, backfill septic tank with 1-foot of drain rock, then backfill with compacted soil or cement slurry.

To remove a septic tank:

1. Septic tank must be pumped by a permitted hauler, and receipt must be submitted for review. Pumping into the public sanitary sewer system is not allowed.
2. Septic tank lids and tank must be removed from property.
3. Call for inspection.
4. After inspection, backfill hole with soil and compact as needed for future project development needs.