



Proper Well Abandonment Procedures

A. Drilled wells with current GW-2 (driller's report)

1. Casing may be salvaged when possible.
2. The well must be checked to assure it is free from obstructions prior to plugging.
3. The well must be thoroughly disinfected prior to plugging.
4. When the casing is salvaged (removed), the well may be back filled to 20 feet below bedrock, with clean sand, gravel, or well cuttings.
5. When the casing cannot be removed, the well may be back filled to 20 feet below bedrock or 20 feet below the bottom of the casing, whichever is greater.
6. In each scenario the remainder of the well must be pressure grouted with neat cement (portland & water) or a bentonite slurry

B. Drilled wells without current GW-2 (driller's report)

1. Casing may be salvaged when possible.
2. The well must be checked to assure it is free from obstructions prior to plugging.
3. The well must be thoroughly disinfected prior to plugging.
4. The well shall be pressure grouted with neat cement or a bentonite slurry from the bottom to the top. The grout pipe may be terminated at 100 feet.

C. Hand dug wells and bored wells

1. The well must be checked to assure it is free from obstructions prior to plugging.
2. The well must be thoroughly disinfected prior to plugging.
3. The well shall be concreted or pressure grouted with a neat cement from the bottom to the top. For wells with diameters greater than 2 feet, a concrete mix may be poured into the well until it is filled (continuous pour required).
4. A permanent marker located in the center of the abandoned well and at ground level must indicate the type of well and date abandoned.
5. **If the abandonment method stated in section 12VAC 5-630-450 of the Private Well Regulations is used, then all distance requirements set in table 3.1 of the Private Well Regulations are to be followed.**

D. Wells constructed in unconsolidated formation

1. The well must be checked to assure it is free from obstructions prior to plugging.
2. The well must be thoroughly disinfected prior to plugging.
3. The well shall be pressure grouted with neat cement or a bentonite slurry from the bottom to the top.
4. A permanent marker located in the center of the abandoned well and at ground level must indicate the type of well and date abandoned.

E. A 25 foot setback distance from any part of a sewage disposal system or future systems is required for all wells properly abandoned in the manner previously stated.