

Decommissioning a Septic Tank Information for Property Owners

Septic tanks no longer in use should be decommissioned. Decommissioning a tank will prevent contamination of the environment and eliminate a potential safety concern caused by a collapsed tank lid.

Steps for Decommissioning a Septic Tank

Locate the septic tank

To find the tank check the “as built” diagram for the septic tank and field. Normally the tank should be about 3 meters (10 feet) straight out from the main sewer line exiting the home.

Disconnect the power to the septic tank

After locating the septic tank, disconnect and remove any electrical devices or components. Devices containing mercury, such as pump floats, must be disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility.

Pump out the septic tank

All solids and liquids should be removed by a registered hauler and disposed of at a licensed sewage treatment plant.

Fill in the septic tank

Once the solid and liquid waste has been removed, completely fill the empty tank with clean sand, gravel or other acceptable material. The land above the tank should be graded and vegetative cover (e.g. grass) established.

If you need assistance in decommissioning a septic tank you can contact a Registered Wastewater Professional (ROWP). To find a ROWP check the ROWP Finder <https://asttbc.org/registrants/registrator-directory/>

To speak with an Environmental Health Officer about decommissioning a septic tank please call the Population Public Health Call Centre (604) 587-3936 and request to be connected to the Land Use Program or email us at Hpland@fraserhealth.ca