



# Harford County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Harford County**  
**Health Department**

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## HAND DUG AND BORED WELL ABANDONMENT AND SEALING INSTRUCTIONS COMAR 26.04.04.34

**\*Please Note - this document applies to Hand Dug and Bored Wells ONLY. Any type of drilled well must be abandoned by a Maryland Licensed Well Driller and the appropriate Well Abandonment Report must be submitted by the Well Driller to this office for review.**

1. Prior to abandoning the well, contact the Health Department at 410-877-2300 to schedule an onsite inspection. During this inspection, a Health Department representative shall verify whether the well is a hand dug/bored well or a drilled well.
2. If the well is confirmed to be a hand dug or bored well, the Health Department Representative shall gather the following information:
  - a. the person performing the well abandonment (property owner or contractor's name and contact information)
  - b. the property owner's information (if different from above)
  - c. the physical address of the property
  - d. the type of casing observed (examples: concrete, stone, brick, etc.)
  - e. the diameter of the well
  - f. the depth of the well
  - g. the type of material planned to fill the well (examples: clean fill dirt, crusher run, gravel, sand, etc.) **\*Material containing trash or organic matter shall not be used.**
3. At least twenty-four hours prior to abandoning the well, contact the Health Department at (410)-877-2300 to schedule an appointment for the Health Department to witness the abandonment.
4. Remove any obstructions that may interfere with the proper sealing of the well (examples: pumps, steel piping, etc.), and remove as much casing as possible.
5. Fill the well with an approved fill material (referenced above) to 5 feet below grade. Be sure to place the fill material in such a way as to prevent the creation of air gaps within the well.
6. Once the well has been filled to 5 feet below grade, a layer of concrete at least 2 feet thick shall be poured on top of the fill material.
7. Once the concrete has cured, the final 3 feet of the well may then be filled to grade with a site appropriate material.
8. Upon completion, the Health Department representative will finalize the Well Abandonment Report, indicating that the well has been properly abandoned and sealed. **Please note:** the Health Department may request material receipts prior to finalizing the Well Abandonment Report. **\*If the abandonment was performed by a licensed well driller, they must submit the required Well Abandonment Report to the Health Department for review.**

If you have any specific questions regarding these instructions, please do not hesitate to contact the Health Department at (410)-877-2300 to discuss.

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