



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

“Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St Joseph County residents”

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES

The following are requirements for the demolition of structures in St. Joseph County including any municipality within the County. These requirements are contained in County Codes 50, 51, and 52 and Indiana State Regulations 410 IAC 6-8-1, 310 IAC 16, and 327 IAC 2-6.

Water Wells

Any water well encountered during demolition must be abandoned by a well driller with a current St. Joseph County registration. This requirement applies to potable wells, irrigation wells, geothermal wells, and monitoring wells. The process includes filling the well with bentonite, cutting the well casing below the surface, and placing a cement cap over the well. A permit to abandon the well must be obtained from the Department of Health, however, there is no fee for the permit.

Septic Systems

Any septic tank or dry well present must be permanently abandoned as follows:

- The septic tank or drywell must be pumped by a licensed septage pumper/ hauler.
- The septic tank must be crushed.
- The septic tank or dry well must be backfilled with earthen material. Sand is preferred.
- Often there are several dry wells connected in a series. Each dry well must be abandoned.

Building Demolition Debris

All demolition debris must be disposed of in a State licensed landfill except uncontaminated brick and stone which may be disposed of in any safe manner with the permission of the landowner. No demolition debris may be burned or buried.

Hazardous Materials and Other Regulated Substances

All hazardous materials, paints, asbestos, petroleum products, and other regulated materials must be removed, transported, and disposed of by a licensed contractor.

Residential Fuel Oil Tanks

Residential underground fuel oil tanks must be removed or abandoned. The following are the procedures to abandon a residential fuel oil tank:

- All petroleum products, including any sludge, must be removed by a licensed contractor.
- The tank must be filled with inert material. Sand is preferred.
- All fill ports must be cut below the ground surface.

Contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the requirements concerning the abandonment or removal of other underground storage tanks.

Violations of the requirements listed above may subject you to penalties up to \$1500 per day, per violation. If you have questions concerning these requirements, contact the Department of Health, Environmental Health Division at 574-235-9722.

Please send all electronic correspondence for the Environmental Health Unit to envirohd@sjcindiana.com

Environmental Health Unit • 227 W. Jefferson Blvd. • 9th Floor • South Bend, IN 46601-1870 • Phone (574) 235-9722 • Fax (574) 235-9497