
Why Trust Anyone Else?

Abandon Septic Systems

Septic systems, or private onsite water treatment systems (POWTS), are regulated by the Building & Safety division of the Department of Commerce.

Wis. Admin. Code § Comm 83.33 provides with respect to abandonment, "A subsurface tank or pit that is no longer used as a POWTS component shall be abandoned by complying with all of the following:

(1) Disconnecting all piping to the tanks and pits.

(2) Sealing all disconnected piping to the tanks and pits in accordance with s. Comm 82.21 (2) (h).

(3) Pumping and disposing of the contents from all tanks and pits. Note: The disposal of the contents from treatment tanks, distribution tanks, seepage pits and holding components is addressed in ch. NR 113 which is administered by the department of natural resources.

(4) Removing all tanks or removing the covers of the tanks or pits and filling the tanks and pits with soil, gravel or an inert solid material.

Note: Pursuant to s. 281.45, Stats., municipalities and sanitary districts may determine the availability of, and require connection to, public sewers. Section 281.45, Stats., reads in part: "HOUSE CONNECTIONS. To assure preservation of public health, comfort and safety, any city, village or town or town sanitary district having a system of waterworks or sewerage, or both, may by ordinance require buildings used for human habitation and located adjacent to a sewer or water main, or in a block through which one or both of these systems extend, to be connected with either or both in the manner prescribed. If any person fails to comply for more than 10 days after notice in writing the municipality may impose a penalty or may cause connection to be made, and the expense thereof shall be assessed as a special tax against the property."

Information for contacting Safety & Building staff is found online at <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivContacts.html>.

Honest Home Inspection cares about the safety of you and your family. That is why we have provided this material. Share it with the people who share your home. **Be Safe!!**

Scott C. LeMarr

Honest Home Inspections, LLC