



County of Bernalillo

Office of Environmental Health

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Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 314-0310, fax (505) 314-0470

WELL ABANDONMENT TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

Bernalillo County Water Well Ordinance 2005-19 Section 42-565B states "Wells and boreholes shall be abandoned in accordance with the technical guidance provided by the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health.

These steps should be followed to properly abandon a well.

Step 1: Remove all pumps, plumbing, piping, screens, wiring, check valves, and other obstructions from the well. Any casing not grouted must be removed or properly grouted.

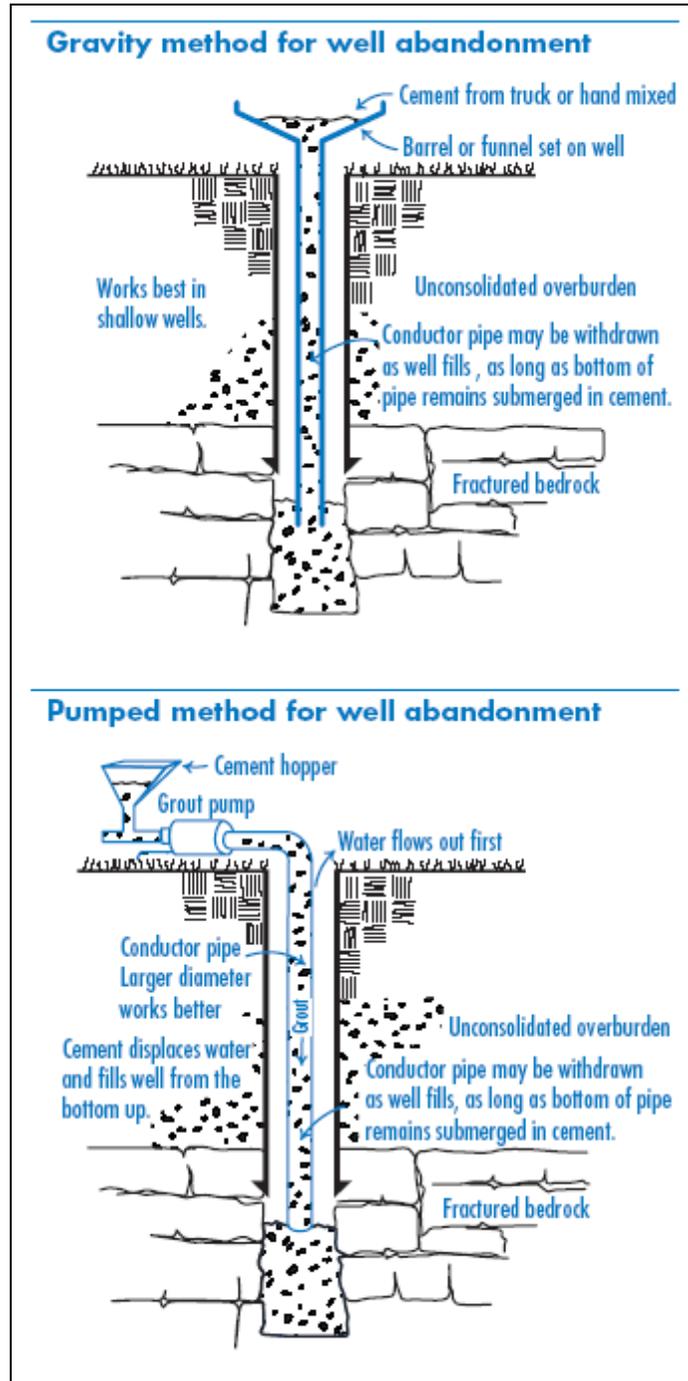
Step 2: Calculate the volume of the well to determine the quantity of fill material needed.

$$\text{Volume} = (\text{diameter of casing-in feet} - /2) ^ 2 * \text{depth of casing}$$

Step 3: Benetonite grout (or other approved material) should then be injected into the well. This material should completely fill the total depth of the well. The benetonite should be placed in the well with the use of a conductor (tremie) pipe extending to the bottom of the well. Use of a conductor pipe will assure that the benetonite won't be diluted by the water in the well, and will not plug in the well part-way down. The conductor pipe is to be kept submerged in the benetonite during the filling, and slowly pulled up as the well is filled (see figure on next page).

Save receipts to document amount and type of material utilized.

Step 4: Cut casing below the land surface (6" minimum) and cap securely. Call BCOEH at 314-0310 to schedule an inspection. Once the inspection has been approved, the capped, filled casing may be covered with dirt or soil



Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, PUB-DG-016 2004

Note: There are other acceptable methods to properly abandon a well. If an alternate method is to be utilized, please contact the BCOEH for approval prior to abandonment.