

**MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU  
A CERTIFIED UNIFIED PROGRAM AGENCY**

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**MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DESTRUCTION OF MONITORING WELLS AND EXPLORATORY BORINGS**

The proper destruction of monitoring wells and exploratory borings after they have served their purpose is necessary in order to:

1. Protect and ensure the quality of ground water.
2. Remove any physical hazardous to humans and animals.

**Requirements:**

The requirements for destruction of monitoring wells are found in Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 74-81 and Supplement 74-90. Generally, the requirements for the destruction of monitoring wells depends upon the depth of the annular seal.

- A. If the annular seal is less than 20 feet.
  1. Casing, annular seal and sand pack are to be removed.
  2. Extraction of casing, annular seal and sand pack can be accomplished by overdrilling using a hollow stem auger.
  3. Appropriate sealing material shall be used. Sealing material shall consist of neat cement, or bentonite clay.
  4. Placement of sealing material shall be by means of a tremie pipe to prevent formation of voids for the entire length of the hole. This shall be accomplished with the auger in place. The amount of sealing material shall be equal or greater than the volume of the hole.
  
- B. If the annular seal is greater than 20 feet.
  1. The top five feet of wall casing and annular seal is removed.
  2. The well casing is punctured to ensure placement of sealing material in all voids within the annular space. This is done because the screen may not be sufficient in size to allow for proper flow into the annular space. A tremie pipe is to be used to ensure proper placement.
  3. Top of well excavated to five feet so that when the sealing materials is poured, it forms an overlapping seal over the excavation or hole.

### C. Exploratory Borings

1. When contaminants are found, borings are to be filled with proper sealing materials. The proper sealing material shall be based on the depth of the boring and distance to groundwater. The boring shall be properly sealed by means of a tremie pipe, or other means to prevent bridging. Sealing material must prevent surface contaminants from mixing with underlying water strata and be chemically compatible with contaminants.
2. If native fill is used (upon approval by the health department), compaction to 90% is required. Fill is to be clean, and free of any contaminants. Sealing material may be used, and in areas of high permeability at the bottom of the hole (1-2 feet from the bottom).

### D. Permits

1. Permits will be required to construct and destroy all monitoring wells and exploratory borings. A work plan and appropriate work plan fee may be required for investigative work at a known or potentially contaminated sites (i.e. UST sites). Assessor's Parcel numbers and site plans will be required as well as site safety plans and 40 hour training in hazardous material per 29 CFR 1910.120 for all employees at the site. A copy of the construction permit shall accompany the application to destroy.

These requirements are in addition to Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90. Any deviation from these requirements will be on a case by case basis.