



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health Service

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 Fax : (831) 454-3128 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.sceeh.com

Septic Tank Destruction Procedure

- A. Apply for an Environmental Health Minor Repair Permit by submitting a completed [application](#), [fees](#) and two plot plans.
- B. Destruction procedures:
1. Completely remove (pump out) all sewage from the tank, cesspool or seepage pit by a [Certified Septage Pumper](#).
 2. Remove or crush the top cover over the septic tank.
 3. Punch a hole at least 12 inches in diameter at the bottom of the tank in each compartment.
 4. Fill the septic tank with sand, gravel concrete, or self-compacting soils, or other material approved by the district inspector.
 5. When filling with earth or sand, jet and compact the materials to prevent settling.
 6. Breaking the bottom of the tank is not required should the person performing the work choose to fill the empty tank with cement slurry. If the tank is less than 5' from any existing or future proposed structures a cement slurry mixture must be used to fill the tank.
 7. Should the person performing the work choose to remove the tank, the excavation must be backfilled with clean self compacting soil, sand or pea-gravel.
- C. Contact Environmental Health 24 hours before start of work to arrange for inspections. Environmental Health staff will make a site visit prior to approving the permit and again for the actual tank destruction. Also coordinate with Public Works if connecting to a sewer system.

