



**Prince George's County
Department of Permitting,
Inspections, and Enforcement**

**Building Plan Review Division
Health Review Section**

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RAZE PERMIT APPLICATION: HOW TO OBTAIN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SIGN-OFF MEMO

In order to demolish (or raze) any structure, there are steps that need to take place **BEFORE** obtaining the necessary permits — including but not limited to:

- Performing asbestos abatement;
- Backfilling an abandoned well and septic system.

Prior to any raze or demolition activity, a site inspection must be scheduled with the Health Department representative to determine whether the structure/property is free of asbestos-containing material (ACM) or other hazardous materials. The property will also be inspected for the presence of abandoned wells, septic tanks,

Asbestos-containing material is material that contains more than one percent of asbestos. The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) classifies ACM as either “friable” or “non-friable.” Friable ACM is asbestos that, when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. Non-friable ACM is asbestos that, when dry, cannot be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. Refer to the EPA asbestos NESHAP in 40 CFR Part 61 for technical guidance. Friable ACM must be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor before receiving Health approval for the raze request.

An abandoned well must be properly filled and sealed by a licensed well driller, or it must be observed by the Health Department. If found, septic tanks need to be emptied by a licensed scavenger; metal tanks must be moved, and concrete tanks should be crushed or backfilled in place. Drain field pipes and tiles should be taken to a landfill, and the trenches should be treated with agricultural lime before backfilling and regrading.

Demolition of all structures, except residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units, requires notification to the Asbestos Program at (410) 537–3200. Please note that MDE must receive written notice of the asbestos removal at least 10 working days before the work or demolition begins.

Contact this office at (301) 883–7621 to receive a current list of approved Prince George's County well and septic contractors.