



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;
- Removing hazardous or regulated materials;
- Submitting necessary notifications;
- Disconnecting utilities;
- Baiting rodents; and
- Developing site-specific safety and work plans.

Prior to any raze or demolition activity, a site inspection must be scheduled with the Health Department representative to determine 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 and underground storage tanks.

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

Shallow, abandoned wells must be backfilled and sealed by a licensed well driller or witnessed by the Health Department. Deep wells must be backfilled by a licensed well driller. If located, septic tanks need to be pumped by a licensed scavenger; metal tanks must be moved, and concrete tanks are to be crushed or backfilled in place. Drain field pipes/tiles should be disposed of at a landfill and the trenches treated with agricultural lime prior to backfilling and regrading. If the applicant prefers to delay the backfilling of a shallow well or septic system until heavy equipment and materials are available in conjunction with the actual demolition, a written request must be submitted and approved by the Health Department prior to sign off on the raze application. Backfilling of a deep well must be accomplished prior to approval of the raze request.

Demolition of all structures (excluding residential buildings that have four or fewer dwelling units) requires notification to be made to the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) Asbestos Program at (410) 537–3200. **Please note that MDE must receive written notice of the asbestos removal at least 10 working days prior to removal work or demolition.**