



DECOMMISSIONING SEPTIC TANKS

The Municipality of Grey Highlands encourages you to properly decommission your septic tank/sewage system when hooking up to Town services or demolishing a house. A permit is required for the decommissioning or it can be part of the demolition permit obtained when demolishing a house.

1. Locate the septic tank and uncover the top of the tank (generally 12-24" below ground level).
2. Remove the lid and have the septic tank effluent (liquid and sludge) pumped out by an approved sanitary septic Hauler. This is important, as the effluent will contain bacteria and viruses that could make you or your family ill. If you cannot have the tank pumped immediately, mark the location of the tank so it is clearly visible (cover the hole and flag it).
3. Fill in the septic tank completely with soil (sand or gravel works best) and put the lid back in place or break the lid and the top of the tank apart, put the pieces into the bottom of the tank, and fill in the open tank with soil.
4. Backfill the soil around the septic tank slightly higher than ground level to allow for settling.
5. Disconnect the power at the source to all electrical controls and remove all tank accessories (pump, float switches).
6. Remove all electrical lines, (including buried service line) that will not be used for other purposes. Devices containing mercury (float switches) must be disposed of at a Licensed Hazardous Waste Facility.

A Building Official is required to confirm that the septic tank has been decommissioned.

For more information, please contact Building Services.
building@greyhighlands.ca or call 519-986-2811