



How do I Plug a Confined Water Well?

Fact Sheet

An abandoned water well is:

1. A well that has been permanently taken out of use.
2. A well that is in such a state of disrepair that using it for any purpose is impractical.
3. A well that is either a physical hazard or threatens to contaminate or pollute groundwater aquifers.

All abandoned water wells which are contaminating or threatening to contaminate groundwater aquifers are required to be plugged in accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1213. Water wells which are in good repair but are not being utilized presently may be put on "inactive status" if the well is to be used sometime in the near future. A request for placing the well on inactive status (Form WWC-6) needs to be filed with the department in accord with K.A.R. 28-30-7(f). The well needs to be kept in good repair and maintained so that surface water flows away from the well and does not seep into the ground along the outside of the well casing or well wall. The well casing or wall should be sealed at the surface so it is air and water tight to eliminate any surface water or animals from entering the well.

If the water well will not be used at anytime in the near future, it needs to be permanently plugged by the landowner or a Kansas licensed water well contractor. The plugging of the water well should be accomplished by using one of the following methods:

Option I

1. Measure the water level with a weighted tape measure or string.
2. Pour 2 gallons of chlorine bleach into the well to properly disinfect it.
3. Fill the well with approved cement or sodium bentonite from total depth through the screened section.
4. Fill the well with clay or sand and gravel material from the grout (cement or bentonite) plug to the bottom of the confining formation (impervious zone).
5. From the confining formation fill the well with 10 feet of approved cement or sodium bentonite grout.
6. From the confining formation plug to the water level, measured in Step 1 above, fill the well with clay or sand and gravel to 13 feet below ground surface.
7. Fill in the remaining space with approved cement or sodium bentonite material from 13 feet to 3 feet below ground surface.
8. Cut the well casing off 3 feet below ground surface and back fill with surface soils.

Option II

Completely fill the well from bottom to 3 feet below ground surface with cement or sodium bentonite grout. Cut the well casing off 3 feet below the ground surface and backfill with surface soils from 3 feet to ground surface.

A record of the plugging of the well is required in accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1212. Plugging records (form WWC-5P) must be filed with the KDHE office in Topeka within thirty (30) days following the completion of the above plugging procedures. If you have any additional questions, contact the department at (785) 296-3565. Office hours are between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Plugging a Confined Well (Grouted)

