



Lee County Health Department
Environmental Services Department
#3 John Bennett Drive
PO Box 1426
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-5225 or 800-458-6672

Summary of plugging an “average” Class 1 water supply well

1. Contact your local county environmental health sanitarian to disclose the well and the intended well plugging
2. Locate well, evaluate obstacles and remove any pump an/or associated piping
3. Measure well depth, diameter, and water level
4. Discuss with county sanitarian to determine how much lime fill and bentonite material you will need
5. Slowly place fill material in well to within 1’ of the measured static water level or ½ the well depth if water level is artificially high
NOTE: Avoid rapid placement or else “bridging” of the material may occur and result in incomplete and non-compliant plugging of well.
6. Place one half of bentonite required for the entire plugging on top of the fill material
NOTE: If the well is less than 20’ deep you may fill the well up to 10’ below ground level and place the bentonite seal at this point
7. Resume placing fill material until the fill reaches 4’ below the ground surface or bottom of well pit
8. Remove the upper 4’ of well curbing, stone, brick, or lining
9. Place the remaining bentonite on top of fill taking care to pour material so that it extends past the edges of the casing
10. Fill over the plugged well area with clean compacted soil and slightly mound the well site.
11. DNR form 542-1226 “Abandoned Water Well Plugging Record” must be completed and submitted to your local county health department along with all invoices to be eligible for reimbursement.

Well plugging is required by law on any well that is a threat to groundwater or is no longer being used or which is in such disrepair that use for the purpose of accessing water is unsafe or impractical.

All well plugging must be done by either the homeowner under the direct direction of the county sanitarian or by an Iowa DNR Certified Well Contractor with the appropriate contractor certification category.

Well plugging rules can be found in the 567 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 39.