



PROCEDURE FOR TANK ABANDONMENT

Pursuant to COA Code Chapter 15-5 and 30 TAC, Chapter 285.36

Pre-inspection:

- a) Ensure the [tank abandonment fee](#) has been paid. Call 512-972-0050 for more information.
- b) Locate any existing septic tanks, pump tanks, grease traps, or cesspools present on the property. System plans may be available from our division, please email public.information@austintexas.gov for details.
- c) All of the above components present must be pumped to remove any sewage and or waste. Pumping must be performed by a licensed waste hauler, and the “trip ticket/manifest” must be posted on site or made available for verification during the abandonment inspection.
- d) The top cover or arch over the cesspool, septic tank, grease trap, or pump tank must be crushed into the empty tank or removed.
- e) The septic tank, grease trap, cesspool, or pump tank shall be back filled no higher than the top vertical edges of the tank with fill material less than 3 inches in diameter and free of organic and construction debris.
Examples of acceptable fill material: sand, sandy loam, pea gravel, crushed limestone base, clean class III soils. Clay soils should be avoided due to their high shrink/swell characteristics.

Permits and Inspections:

If you are “cutting over” to the City (connecting to the City of Austin’s centralized wastewater system) you will need to:

- a) Ensure all tap fees have been paid. Email AWTaps@austintexas.gov for more information.
- b) Obtain a plumbing permit from the City of Austin at www.austintexas.gov/page/service-center-and-trade-permits.
- c) The plumber can schedule the required inspections and the tank may be abandoned by the same licensed plumber installing the new private wastewater line.

If you are not cutting over, then you will need to call the Austin Water Utility, Utility Development Services Division at 512-972-0050 to schedule a final inspection.

All inspections are on a “first come first serve basis”. It is not necessary for the plumber/contractor or homeowner to be on site for the inspection if the trip ticket/manifest is posted and clearly visible, and access to the tank area is unrestricted.

A copy of the inspection report will be left on site indicating whether the tank abandonment inspection was passed or failed. If passed, you may continue to finish covering as desired. It is recommended that finish cover be mounded slightly higher than adjacent grade to allow for settling.

