

How to Decommission Your Drywell

The following general procedures are recommended for closure of “typical” drywells that do not require an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP). A typical drywell has a settling chamber and injection pipe. Different decommissioning procedures should be followed for drywells with a seepage pit design. Drywells that qualify for clean closure (those that need an APP or are currently covered by an APP) have special decommissioning requirements.

Unregistered Drywells

To stay in compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes § 49-332, property owners can register their drywells online 24/7 with ADEQ's user-friendly online portal, myDEQ. To learn more, visit azdeq.gov/drywell_registration or call the Drywell Program Coordinator at 602-771-4686.

Decommissioning Procedures

An experienced drywell drilling contractor should be obtained to perform the following decommissioning activities:

- Remove sediments and any drainage compounds such as standpipes and screens from the drywell's settling chamber and backfill the injection pipe with cement grout;
- Remove the settling chamber;
- Backfill the settling chamber excavation to the land surface with clean silt, clay, or engineered material. Materials containing hazardous substances are prohibited from use in backfilling the drywell; and
- Mechanically compact the backfill.

If procedures other than these are used in decommissioning, the drywell owner should demonstrate that the procedures used are equivalent and will prevent any fluid migration from the surface to an aquifer.

Notifying ADEQ

You must notify ADEQ about the decommissioning of your drywell via myDEQ, ADEQ's online portal. Visit azdeq.gov/mydeq/drywell for more information.