



QUESTIONS?

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www.deq.pima.gov

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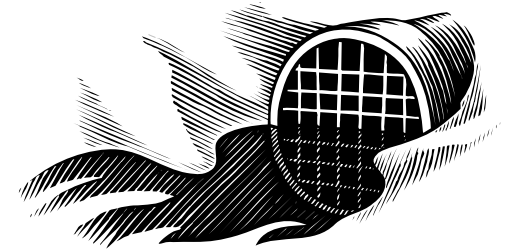
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CESSPOOLS IN PIMA COUNTY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



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What is a cesspool?

Pima County Code

Title 7.21.020

defines a cesspool as:

“An underground excavation which receives the discharge of sewage”.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary
defines a cesspool as:

“An underground reservoir for liquid waste (as household sewage)”.

Regardless of how you describe it, cesspools are prohibited in Pima County.

Per Arizona

Administrative Code

R18-9-A309.A.4 and

Pima County Code

7.21.025.C: **“No person shall use a cesspool for the disposal of sewage or industrial waste”.**



Steps to properly close (abandon) a cesspool:

(Arizona Administrative Code
R18-9-A309.D)

1. **Remove all sewage from the cesspool and dispose of it in a lawful manner;**
2. **Disconnect and remove electrical and mechanical components (if applicable);**
3. **Remove or collapse the top on any tank/containment structure;**
4. **Fill the cavity with earth, sand, gravel, concrete, or other approved material;**
5. **Regrade the surface to provide drainage away from the closed area;**
6. **Cut and plug (i.e. end cap) both ends of the abandoned sewer drain pipe between the building and the cesspool not more than 5 feet outside the building foundation if practical, or cut and plug as close to each end as possible; and**
7. **Notify the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality in writing within 30 days of closure.**