



Demolition and Hazardous Waste Disposal, and Site Mitigation Resources

In addition to demolition permits issued by the Department of Local Services, Permitting Division (Permitting), additional requirements and permits may be needed for a demolition project. Of concern is the proper disposal of demolition debris, mitigation of site conditions and handling of hazardous waste.

Demolition Waste Disposal

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), [Solid Waste Division](#) is responsible for the disposal of demolition debris. DNRP provides an array of resources to assist with the responsible recycling, reuse and disposal of construction and demolition debris.

[Green Building Tools](#)

Utilities

Before beginning demolition activities, contact local utilities for procedures to disconnect and abandon the utility services to the building(s). These services, which may include sewer, water, electricity, natural gas, and cable, should be properly disconnected before starting demolition work.

Underground Flammable Liquid Storage Tanks

Removal of **commercial** underground flammable liquid storage tanks requires a King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division permit.

Residential heating oil tanks may be either removed or abandoned-in-place; however, this work must be done by a certified contractor.

[Fuel Tanks, Decommissioning Underground](#)

[Fuel Tank Installers and Decommissioning Contractors](#)

Decommissioning Wells

All water wells associated with structures being demolished must be abandoned in accordance with Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) guidelines for decommissioning of abandoned wells.

[Abandoned wells](#)

[Notice of Intent to Decommission a Well.](#)

Note that Seattle-King County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Services is not decommissioning abandoned wells on behalf of DOE at this time.

Demolition and Hazardous Waste Disposal, and Site Mitigation Resources, continued

On-Site Sewer (Septic) Systems

Before demolition of any structure, all sewage must be removed from existing septic systems, cesspools, and any other cavities where sewage is located. After sewage removal, the voids must be filled with sand, gravel, or other approved material. For additional information on abandonment of septic systems and cesspools, contact the [Seattle-King County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Services](#).

Hazardous Materials

Many older buildings contain asbestos in roofing, siding, ceilings, flooring, fireproofing, pipe coverings, and/or other insulation. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that asbestos is a hazardous substance, particularly airborne asbestos. Federal law administered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires building owners to identify asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in their buildings and to arrange for their proper removal. This law is enforced locally by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA).

Building owners are responsible for hiring a professional testing firm to perform a good faith survey to identify ACMs in the building. Owners are also responsible for safely removing and disposing of the materials.

If ACMs are identified in a building, anyone conducting renovation or demolition operations involving removal or disturbance of the ACMs must file a Notice of Intent to Remove Asbestos. The PSCAA web site provides a list of certified asbestos abatement contractors, as well as a list of asbestos-disposal locations.

[PSCAA Permits and Registration](#)

[Notice of Intent to Remove Asbestos](#)

