

## Recommendations for Properly Abandoning an Onsite Wastewater (Septic) System

### Abandoning the Septic Tank

- Hire a **SCDES licensed septic contractor** to properly abandon the tank.
- A licensed contractor should pump the tank to remove all contents. Wastewater left in an abandoned tank may leak out into the surrounding environment and contaminate both the ground and groundwater.
- If the tank is removed, the licensed contractor should back fill the hole.
- If the tank is to be left in place, the licensed contractor may crush the lid into the tank and then fill the tank with clean soil to prevent settling.
- Contact a licensed electrician to disconnect any power source from the pump system, if one was installed.

### Abandoning the Drainfield

If there are no plans to use the area for other purposes, the drainfield can be left intact. If components of the drainfield are to be removed:

- Hire a SCDES licensed septic contractor.
- Pump out all contents from distribution boxes.
- Allow sufficient time for the drainfield to dry completely.
- Properly grade the area and establish a vegetative cover.

