



TOWN OF WESTFORD
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWN HALL
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WESTFORD, MA 01886
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BOH DEMOLITION AND/OR RENOVATION PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

Prior to signing off and approving any demolition* permit application, the Board of Health needs to be certain that any and all hazardous materials have been identified and removed in accordance with local and state regulations and the existing septic system and/or well has been abandoned (if applicable). In addition to the local permitting procedures, a construction or demolition operation of an industrial, commercial, institutional building, or residential building with 20 or more units is also regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bureau of Waste Prevention - Air Quality Division. State filing and notification for this type of construction or demolition operation is required ten (10) days prior to any work being performed in accordance with the permit application BWP AQ 06. During a pre-demolition inspection the Westford BOH will typically walk through and look for:

I. Hazardous Materials

- A. Asbestos can be present within older vinyl floor tiles, exterior type shingles (not roof type), and/or older, insulated heating units/pipes (fibrous coating). Due to this, proof of an asbestos survey must be submitted on every proposed unit, house, building, etc. demolition prior to demo permit sign-off.
Asbestos, if confirmed, must be removed by a properly licensed asbestos abatement contractor as per MA Department of Environmental Protection's Asbestos Regulations.
- B. Mercury Switches in thermostats (round Honeywell type), heating furnaces, boilers, etc.
All mercury switches must be removed and disposed of properly as they can NOT go in to the trash. The BOH accepts switches and thermometers (placed in resealable bags but only up to the size that fits in to the palm of your hand) at the BOH office, M-F from 8 am to 4 pm.
- C. Home Heating Oil Tanks (above or below grade);
All above and below ground, home heating/fuel-oil tanks must be emptied, opened and cleaned out, and ready for disposal. Below grade home heating/fuel-oil or hazardous material storage tanks must be "abandoned" in accordance with all state and local regulations. Regardless, a permit from the Westford Fire Department is required for all tank removals.
- D. Any significant quantities of hazardous materials as defined by our local storage regulations.

All other potential hazardous chemicals present must be identified and disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations.

II. Septic Systems/Wells

- A. Existing Septic Systems and Wells must be officially abandoned as per State and/or Local guidelines and/or regulations as confirmed by an onsite inspection by the BOH or affidavit signed by the property owner and/or appropriate abandonment contractor.

* **DEMOLITION/RENOVATION** means any operation which involves the wrecking, taking out, removal, stripping, or altering in any way (including repairing, restoring, drilling, cutting, sanding, sawing, scratching, scraping, or digging into) or construction of one or more facility components or facility component insulation. This term includes load and non-load supporting structural members of a facility.

For more information log on to the websites of The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) @ www.mass.gov/dep and/or The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) @ www.epa.gov.