



Oil and Gas Well Drilling and Servicing eTool

[Home](#) | [General Safety](#) | [Site Preparation](#) | [Drilling](#) | [Well Completion](#) | [Servicing](#) | [Plug and Abandon the Well](#)



Plug and Abandon the Well

A well is abandoned when it reaches the end of its useful life or is a dry hole.

- The [casing](#) and other equipment is removed and salvaged.
- [Cement plugs](#) are placed in the borehole to prevent migration of fluids between the different formations.
- The surface is reclaimed.



Fig. 1. A plugged and abandoned well site

Removing Casing

[^ TOP](#)

The rig is used to remove the [casing](#) and plug the well. The wellhead is removed. After the casing is cut off, it is removed.

Potential Hazards:

- Being struck by rig equipment (such as casing jacks, power tongs, and casing elevators).
- Being exposed to other hazards similar to those encountered during regular drilling or workover operations.

Possible Solutions:

- Solutions are similar to those found in [Tripping out/in](#) and [Casing Operations](#).



Fig. 2. Wellhead

Place Cement Plugs

[^ TOP](#)

Cement plugs are placed in the borehole to prevent migration of fluids between the different formations. This also prevents the migration of gas or fluids to the surface.

Potential Hazards:

- Being struck by pressured lines when pumping cement.

Possible Solutions:

- Instruct personnel to stand clear of pressurized lines.

Additional Information:

- Additional materials can be found at [API](#) in *Bulletin E3 Well Abandonment and Inactive Well Practices for U.S. Exploration and Production Operations, Environmental Guidance Document, 1st Edition, January 1993.*

[eTool Home](#) | [Site Preparation](#) | [Drilling](#) | [Well Completion](#) | [Servicing](#) | [Plug & Abandon Well](#)
[General Safety](#) | [Additional References](#) | [Viewing/Printing Instructions](#) | [Credits](#) | [JSA](#)
[Safety and Health Topic](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Illustrated Glossary](#) | [Glossary of Terms](#)



[Back to Top](#)

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