



Maryland Department
of the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLOSURE

This fact sheet is to inform owners of the procedures involved in closing residential heating oil underground storage tank (UST) systems with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less.

- In Maryland, it is State law that once a heating oil tank is no longer to be used as a fuel source at a residential property that it must be removed or closed in place.
- Note that all UST systems in Maryland, including residential heating oil tanks less than 1,100 gallons, must be closed under the onsite supervision and direction of a Maryland Certified UST System Technician, Remover, or Heating Oil Technician.

DO I HAVE TO REMOVE MY UST?

If your tank is under a building or would endanger a building if removed, then it is recommended that you abandon the tank in-place (i.e. close it in place). Abandoning in-place is only recommended in these limited circumstances.

PROCEDURE FOR CLOSURE OF A RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL UST

If your tank is larger than 1,100 gallons in capacity, you must follow more stringent removal requirements as well as the registration of your tank with the MDE's Oil Control Program.

For all qualifying residential heating oil USTs, the procedures for closure in place or by removal are as follows. If any of these steps cannot be accomplished, it is advised that your Maryland Certified UST System Technician, Remover, or Heating Oil Technician contact the Oil Control Program for guidance.

Removal	Closure in Place	Requirement
X	X	<u>Notify the Oil Supplier:</u> If you are converting to gas or electric heat, or if you are replacing your tank, call your oil distributor and notify them of your intentions and to request they stop service to your home if applicable.
X	X	<u>Obtain a Contractor:</u> Hire a Maryland Certified UST System Technician, Remover, or Heating Oil Technician to do the tank closure and removal for you. A list of State certified contractors can be found on the Oil Control Program's Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage.



Removal	Closure in Place	Requirement
X	X	<u>Obtain a Local Permit</u> : Before any excavation work can be started, a permit to abandon the underground tank may be required from a county agency, such as the local fire department, health department, or planning department.
X	X	<u>Remove Product from the Tank</u> : All product must be removed from the tank and lines before closing or removing the tank.
X	X	<u>Conduct Excavation</u> : Dig to the top of the tank and expose the piping.
X	X	<u>Disconnect Piping and Drain</u> : All piping including the tank fill and vent lines must be disconnected, drained, and removed. If piping cannot be removed due to structural or safety concerns, with prior MDE approval, it must be capped and remain in place.
X	X	<u>Empty Tank</u> : Empty the tank of remaining product. The removed material must be properly disposed of in compliance with State and local regulations.
	X	<u>Open Tank</u> : Provide proper openings on the tank to facilitate cleaning and filling the tank to capacity with the chosen solid, inert flowable material. Note that tanks may not be filled through a fill or vent pipe.
X	X	<u>Clean Tank</u> : Thoroughly clean tank of liquid and sludge. Ensure the removed material is properly disposed of in compliance with State and local regulations.
	X	<u>Collect Soil Samples</u> : Collect soil samples from two feet below the UST bottom to document any soil contamination. Soil samples must be analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by EPA Method 8260 and for total petroleum hydrocarbons – diesel and gasoline range organics (TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO) by EPA Method 8015.
X		<u>Remove Tank</u> : Once the tank is cleaned, remove it from the ground.
	X	<u>Fill Tank</u> : Once the tank is cleaned, fill the UST to capacity with a solid, inert flowable material (e.g. sand, cement slurry). There can be no voids in the tank.
X	X	<u>Report and Cleanup a Release</u> : You and the contractor performing the work must report any contamination of soil or groundwater found during the tank removal or closure to MDE immediately upon discovery. Call (410) 537-3442 during work hours or 1-866-633-4686 after hours.
X	X	<u>Excavate Contaminated Soil</u> : If oil contaminated soil is encountered, excavate it to the maximum extent practicable.

Removal	Closure in Place	Requirement
X		<u>Collect Post-excavation Soil Samples:</u> Collect post-excavation soil samples to document the presence/absence of residual soil contamination. Soil samples must be analyzed for VOCs by EPA Method 8260 and for TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO by EPA Method 8015.
X	X	<u>Remove Piping:</u> Remove or disconnect and cap all supply, return, and vent lines from the tank. Remove all aboveground portions of the tank vent. Remove the tank fill pipe. (Improperly abandoned fill pipes are often a means for unintentional releases into basements or directly to the groundwater.)
X	X	<u>Backfill:</u> Backfill all excavations and secure the job site.
X		<u>Dispose of the Tank:</u> Once the tank is removed from the ground it is ready for disposal. There are a number of locations, such as dismantling yards, landfills, or local scrap yards that are willing to accept tanks. Your contractor can assist you in finding a proper disposal location.
X	X	<u>Dispose of Contaminated Soil:</u> Oil contaminated soil must be disposed at an approved disposal location (permitted landfill or contaminated soil treatment facility).
X	X	<u>Records:</u> Maintain all records, receipts, and photos of the UST closure. Submit a UST System Closure Report to the MDE if directed. Typically, this is required when there was evidence of a release or when submitting an application to the Residential Heating Oil Tank Site Cleanup Reimbursement Program.

CONTACTS

For further information on the removal of residential home heating oil UST systems, please contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 or (800) 633-6101 x3442.

To report oil spills call 1-866-633-4686. Available 24 hours a day.