



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL TANK SITE CLEANUP REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The Oil Contaminated Site Environmental Cleanup Fund was established by law to fund the Residential Heating Oil Tank Site Cleanup Reimbursement Program. The purpose of the program is to reimburse heating oil storage tank owners for eligible spill cleanup costs. Eligibility includes residential aboveground or underground heating oil tanks. Some of the highlights of the program are:

- Certain cleanup costs incurred on or after October 1, 2000 from leaking residential aboveground or underground heating oil tanks may be reimbursed
- After July 1, 2005 a maximum of \$20,000 less a \$500 deductible may be reimbursed to owners of eligible residential tanks
- Only the owner of a residential heating oil tank may apply for reimbursement for site rehabilitation costs
- Application must be within six months after the completion of rehabilitation

To be eligible for reimbursement, the owner must:

- Submit a complete and accurate application on a form supplied by the Department of the Environment
- Submit certain analytical sampling data and disposal receipts
- Certify to the Department that the discharge is not the result of a willful or deliberate act
- Be in substantial compliance with all Maryland laws and regulations applicable to residential oil storage tanks

The following cleanup costs are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Cleanup costs for heating oil systems prior to October 1, 2000
- Cleanup costs for spills of oil that do not originate from a residential heating oil tank
- Oil storage system upgrade or replacement
- Third party claims; (payment directly to a contractor or other company for cleanup)
- Most environmental cleanup costs that have been paid or are payable under an insurance policy



If an application is approved, a Residential Heating Oil Tank Site Cleanup Reimbursement Program Form must be completed and submitted with invoices and proof of payment (copies of cancelled checks showing front and back of check, credit card statements, or signed affidavit) for eligible costs. The deductible of \$500.00 must be satisfied, and the Department shall reimburse an applicant for the following site rehabilitation costs if they are cost effective, reasonable, and consistent with the Department's requirements:

- Soil treatment, including excavation, transportation, proper disposal of oil-contaminated soils, on-site treatment such as soil vapor extraction
- Tank removal in order to gain access to oil impacted soil or groundwater
- Groundwater remediation equipment and installation
- Subsurface investigation, well bailing, recovery system design, operation or monitoring, or a combination of these activities
- Domestic well replacement
- Odor abatement activities, such as forced venting and petroleum saturated material removal, replacement, or restoration to a degree determined by the Department to return the dwelling to a habitable condition

An owner of a residential heating oil tank may apply as follows:

- Once for the entire period of home ownership
- Once per State fiscal year if the heating oil tank is not located at the primary home of the owner

The following criteria are used by the Department in establishing whether a site can be approved for reimbursement:

- An immediate or substantial threat to human health or the environment
- A site located within 1/2 mile of an individual water supply system
- A site located within an approved well head protection zone of a community water supply system
- A site located within 200 feet of an underground utility or surface water body and if there is or has been at least 1/8 inch of free phase oil on the ground water at the site
- A site located within a zone that will create an odor of a petroleum product within a dwelling

For further information or an application, please contact the Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3676.