ABOVEGROUND TANK INSPECTION

Follow this checklist to inspect your tank and help prevent future problems.

- ☑ Make sure the fill cap and vent cap are secured and not clogged or restricted by ice, snow or insect nests.
- ☑ Look for leakage from tank fittings, valves, filters, piping or the tank gauge; also check for weeping at tank seams.
- ☑ Check for any signs of spills around the tank area, fill pipe or vent pipe.
- ☑ Check to see that the tank legs are in good condition and not sunk into the ground. The "belly" of the tank should not be touching the ground.
- ☑ Look for signs of corrosion. An aboveground tank can be painted to inhibit minor corrosion and improve the tank's appearance (especially beneficial in the case of an outdoor tank).

New-generation aboveground tanks offer many advantages.

TANK TESTING

Frequently, a homeowner who is buying or selling a home is faced with a requirement from a lender or an insurance company to have an underground oil tank tested. If this happens to you, here are three things to keep in mind when considering your options.

1. There are several tests that can be conducted and the need for each varies. Often, a combination of tests is appropriate. To avoid confusion and to get information on the most accurate test for you, consult with a local oilheat dealer who can best assess your situation.

2. Any work should be conducted by a company that is certified to do tank testing.

3. Be aware that if you discontinue using heating oil, you may void any tank protection warranty you have purchased and incur additional liability.

Looking for more information about oilheat?

Log on to oilheatamerica.com

Another important source for up-to-date information is your local oilheat provider.

NORA
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FMA

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GUIDE TO HEATING OIL STORAGE TANKS

Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey

www.fmanj.org

SAFE AND EFFICIENT STORAGE

Having an oil tank on your property puts you in control of your comfort. You pay only for the fuel that's delivered, with no estimates or questions. And you can choose from many oil dealers and delivery options.

TYPES OF TANKS

There are two kinds of residential oil storage tanks:

- An aboveground storage tank is a tank located outside of a home or in a basement, garage or crawl space.
- An underground storage tank is a tank that's buried in the ground.

The size of a tank is indicated on the fuel delivery ticket from your heating oil company. The most common tank sizes are 275 and 330 gallons for aboveground tanks, and 550 and 1,000 gallons for underground tanks.

Many homeowners now have aboveground tanks installed inside tank enclosures, such as the one pictured here.

STORAGE TANKS RARELY LEAK

The chance of a home heating oil tank leaking is extraordinarily low. And today's tanks are built with new manufacturing technology that makes an oil tank leak even less likely.*

Because heating oil is nontoxic and biodegradable, there are **no federal or New Jersey laws** that require removal of a properly functioning, active, residential heating oil tank.

* Environ Corporation, "Analysis of the Potential Hazards Posed by No. 2 Fuel Oil Contained in Underground Storage Tanks."

REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

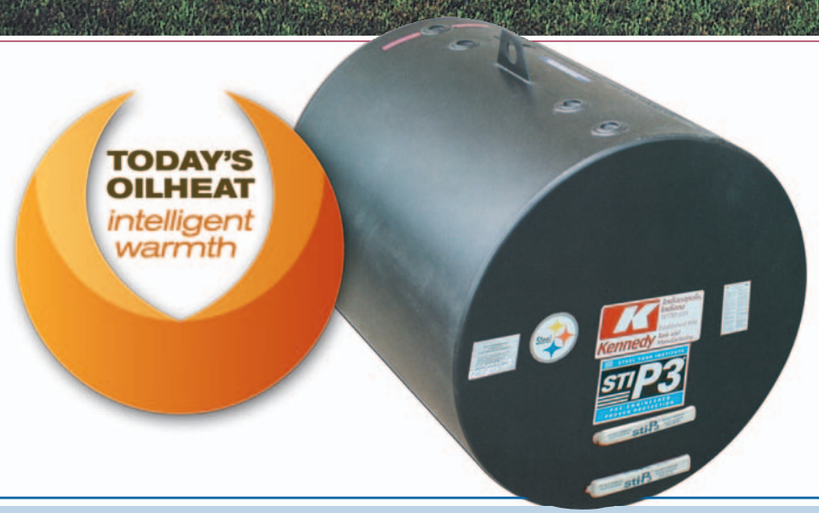
The life expectancies of buried oil tanks vary, depending on the materials used in their manufacture, how the tank was installed and the composition of the surrounding soil. Most last for several decades without problems. But like your roof, an underground tank will eventually need to be replaced.

If you believe your tank is old and in need of replacement, you have two options.

1. Replace a buried tank with an aboveground tank. These tanks are normally smaller (275 or 330 gallons) and can be customized for hard-to-fit places. Aboveground tanks can be installed outside the home and hidden in a tank enclosure.

2. Replace an underground tank with a fiberglass or new corrosion-resistant, cathodically protected underground tank. With today's technology, a new tank can be isolated from the ground, making it worry free.

Both of these options enable you to continue enjoying the savings, safety and service advantages of oilheat.



DECOMMISSION OR REMOVE?

Removing an underground tank is the preferred option. Decommissioning is only done when access is limited and excavation might lead to problems, for example, when a tank is buried under an addition to a home's original structure.

To properly close and decommission an underground tank, a certified company must empty and clean the tank and then fill it with an inert substance such as sand.

HOW TO TELL IF AN OIL TANK HAS BEEN CLOSED PROPERLY

The best resource to contact is your town's building inspector's office. They will have a record of the tank abandonment on file.

Additionally, if a tank has been legally and properly abandoned, there will be no vent pipe or fill pipe.

Ask About Tank Protection

Many oil companies offer programs that provide protection against those rare times when a tank leaks. A typical tank protection program will include coverage for cleanup and replacement costs. Contact your local oil company for more information.