

ABOVEGROUND TANK INSPECTION

Prevent problems! Use this checklist when you give your aboveground tank a visual inspection.

- ✔ *Make sure the fill cap and vent cap are secured, and check that they are not clogged or restricted by ice, snow or insect nests.*
- ✔ *Look for leakage from tank fittings, valves, filters, piping or the tank gauge; look for weeping (moisture) at the tank seams.*
- ✔ *Inspect for signs of spills around the tank, fill pipe or vent lines.*
- ✔ *Make sure the tank is set on concrete, the tank legs are in good condition and the “belly” of the tank is not touching the ground.*
- ✔ *Look for signs of corrosion. An aboveground tank can be painted to seal over minor corrosion, which will also improve the tank’s appearance. This is especially beneficial in the case of an outdoor tank.*
- ✔ *If you have questions about your aboveground tank, be sure to contact the expert — your local heating oil dealer.*



Today’s aboveground tanks are double-walled, which provided extra protection.

UNDERGROUND TANK TESTING

In some cases, buyers and sellers are 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 you consider 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. Seek out advice from your local **oilheat dealer**, who can be an important resource for up-to-date information on tank issues.

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GUIDE TO HEATING OIL STORAGE TANKS



SAFE AND EFFICIENT STORAGE

Having a heating oil storage tank on your property puts you in control of your comfort. You can decide when you receive deliveries. You pay only for the fuel that’s delivered. And you can choose from many oil dealers and delivery options. Storage tanks allow you to achieve total energy independence.

TYPES OF TANKS

There are two kinds of residential oil storage tanks:

*An **aboveground** storage tank may be located outside a house, or it may be in a basement, garage or crawl space.*

*An **underground** storage tank is buried beneath the ground.*

You can determine a tank’s size by checking an oil delivery ticket from the home’s heating oil company. Common tank sizes are 275 gallons for an aboveground tank and 550 and 1,000 gallons for underground tanks.



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

FMA 

REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

The chance of a home heating oil tank leaking is extraordinarily low. And the technology used in the manufacture of today's tanks makes it even less likely that your aboveground or underground tank will leak.

The life expectancies of underground tanks vary, depending on the materials used in a manufacturing a tank, how it was installed and the composition of the surrounding soil. Most tanks last for several decades without a problem. But like your home's roof, an underground tank will eventually need to be replaced.

If you think your tank is in need of replacement, you have two good options.

🛡️ Replace an underground tank with a new **fiberglass tank** or a **corrosion-resistant, cathodically protected underground tank**. With today's technology, a new tank can be separated from the soil, so you're worry free.

⬆️ Replace an underground tank with an **aboveground tank**, which is normally smaller (275 gallons) and can be **customized for hard-to-fit places**. Aboveground tanks can be installed in your basement or outside the home and hidden in a tank enclosure.

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

HEATING OIL IS NONTOXIC AND BIODEGRADABLE.

There are **no federal or New Jersey laws** that require the removal of a properly functioning, active residential heating oil tank.



ASK ABOUT TANK PROTECTION

Many oil companies offer programs that provide protection against those rare tank leaks. A typical tank protection program will include coverage for cleanup and replacement costs, and may even be transferable from one homeowner to another. Contact your local oil company to learn more.

GUIDELINES FOR REPLACEMENT

Homeowners considering upgrading their oil tanks are in good company today. Many are replacing an underground tank with a new modern underground or aboveground tank for a number of reasons, including the following:

- The tank is several decades old and is nearing the end of its lifespan.
- Today's tanks are smaller and more attractive.
- A new tank will increase the value of the home and be more appealing to potential home buyers.

If you decide to replace an underground tank with an aboveground tank, it's important to remember the following:

- The buried tank must be either removed or properly abandoned. If the tank is abandoned, it should be emptied, cleaned and then filled with an inert material such as sand.
- You should make sure to work with a reputable company that's certified to remove or abandon underground tanks.
- Before proceeding, contact your local oilheat company to ask about any municipal codes that may affect the abandonment or removal of an underground tank.