

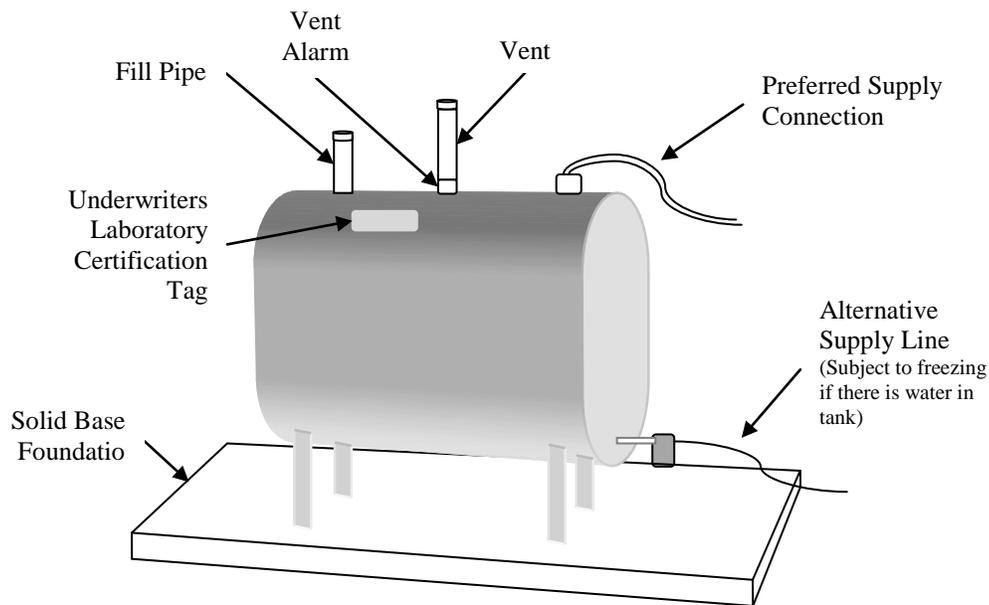


Maryland Department
of the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: INSPECTION OF HEATING OIL ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Heating oil tanks (commercial or residential) can leak due to improper installation or maintenance, can adversely affect the environment, and can lead to costly cleanups for the owner and the State. To avoid expensive oil spills, install new heating oil tank systems in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Code Standard 31 entitled "Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment" and perform routine maintenance on both old and new tank systems. The following checklist can aid you in proper maintenance of your heating oil aboveground storage tank system (AST).

DIAGRAM OF A TYPICAL HEATING OIL AST SYSTEM



INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Ask the following questions and if the answer to any of them is "NO," contact your oil dealer or burner technician. It is best to contact a certified professional to correct the problem. Do not attempt to correct problems yourself.

- Are the tank legs and foundation stable?
- Is the tank surface free of rust, weeps, or excessive denting?



- Is the area around the filter and valves free of drips or signs of leakage?
- Are the oil lines between the tank and the furnace enclosed in protective tubing?
Additional information on copper tubing can be found on the Oil Control Program's Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage.
- Is the tank protected from falling snow or ice?
- Is the tank vent unclogged and free of ice, snow, corrosion, or insect nests?
- Does the tank system have a vent alarm and is it working properly? Ask your oil delivery person if the alarm whistles when filling. Additional information on vent alarms can be found on the Oil Control Program's Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage.
- Are the areas around the fill pipe and vent pipe free of signs of spills?
- Are you using an average amount of oil for your system? Using more oil than normal usually indicates a problem with your system.

CONTACTS

For further information on the inspection of heating oil AST 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.