



Residential and Farm Underground Storage Tank Closure

What You Need to Know

This fact sheet informs owners of the procedures involved in permanently closing residential and farm underground storage tank (UST) systems with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less.

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

Do I Have to Remove My UST?

If your UST is under a building or would endanger the structural integrity of a building if removed, it is recommended that you abandon the tank in place (i.e. close it in place). Abandoning the UST in place should only be considered in these limited circumstances.

Procedure for Closure of a Residential or Farm UST

If your UST is larger than 1,100 gallons in capacity, you must follow more stringent closure requirements and register your tank with the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE's) Oil Control Program (OCP).

For all qualifying USTs, the procedures for permanent closure of residential and farm tanks by removal or closure in place are as follows. If any of these steps cannot be accomplished, it is advised that your Maryland-Certified UST System Technician or Remover contact the OCP for guidance.



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Removal	Closure in Place	Requirement
X	X	<u>Notify the Fuel 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 or Remover to do the tank closure and removal for you. A list of State certified contractors can be found on the OCP's Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage (also available on the Residential Heating Oil webpage). http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/factsheetspublications.aspx .
X	X	<u>Obtain a Local Permit:</u> Before any excavation work can be started, a permit to remove or abandon the UST may be required from a local agency, such as the local fire department, health department, or planning department.
X	X	<u>Remove Fuel from the Tank:</u> All petroleum liquids 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 OCP approval, it may be capped and remain in place. Additional soil sampling may be required to document the presence/absence of petroleum impact beneath the piping.
X	X	<u>Empty Tank:</u> Empty the tank of remaining liquids and sludge. The removed material must be properly disposed of in compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations.



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	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 a minimum of 2 feet below the UST bottom to document the presence/absence of any soil contamination. If petroleum impact is apparent in the initial sample, extend sample collection to a depth that demonstrates the absence of impact and submit the deeper sample(s) for analysis. Soil samples must be analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including fuel oxygenates and naphthalene, 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 and all petroleum vapors are confirmed to have been inerted, 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. Foam is not an acceptable material for filling the UST.
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, but not later than 2 hours, upon discovery. Call 410-537-3442 during work hours or 1-866-633-4686 after hours.
X		<u>Excavate Contaminated Soil</u> : If oil contaminated soil is encountered, excavate it to the maximum extent practicable.
X		<u>Collect Post-excavation Soil Samples</u> : Collect post-excavation soil samples to document the presence/absence of soil contamination. If petroleum impact is apparent in the initial sample(s), extend sample collection to a depth that demonstrates the absence of impact and submit the deeper sample(s) for analysis. Soil samples must be analyzed for VOCs, including fuel oxygenates and naphthalene, by EPA Method 8260 and for TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO by EPA Method 8015.



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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 with appropriate clean backfill material 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 and Report Submission</u> : Maintain all records, receipts, and photos of the UST closure activities. Submit a UST System Closure Report to MDE if directed or if any evidence of a release was observed during the closure process. The preparation of a UST System Closure Report is recommended for all UST closures regardless of the presence/absence of a release, particularly if there is an application to the Reimbursement Program (see below). The UST System Closure Report should follow the OCP's guidance document, which is available from the Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage (also available on the Residential Heating Oil webpage). http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/factsheetspublications.aspx .

Questions

For further information on the removal of residential or farm UST systems, contact the Oil Control Program at 410-537-3442 or 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3442.

To report oil spills, releases, or discharges please call 1-866-633-4686, available 24 hours a day.