



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# FACTS ABOUT: RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL

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The Maryland Department of the Environment does not regulate residential heating oil tanks or the closure of residential heating oil aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). However, please note that it is State law that once a residential heating oil tank is no longer used as a fuel source at a residential property it must be removed.

Unlike an underground storage tank, a Maryland certified Underground Storage System Remover is not required to remove a residential heating oil AST. However, it is recommended that a contractor that is familiar with heating oil tanks and/or oil burning equipment is hired to conduct the tank removal.

## **PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF A RESIDENTIAL HEATING OIL AST**

If any of these steps cannot be accomplished, it is advised that you or your contractor contact the OCP for guidance.

<b>General Procedures</b>
<p><b><u>Notify the Fuel Supplier:</u></b> 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.</p>
<p><b><u>Obtain a Contractor:</u></b> It is recommended that you hire an oil company or contractor that is familiar with heating oil tanks and oil burning equipment. Many HVAC companies can assist you with this job. Also, while it is not required, many Maryland-Certified UST System Technicians or Removers can be hired to remove residential heating oil ASTs. 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). <a href="http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/factsheetspublications.aspx">http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/factsheetspublications.aspx</a>.</p>
<p><b><u>Remove Fuel from the Tank:</u></b> All petroleum liquids must be removed from the tank and lines before removing the tank. Your local landfill may have the ability to recycle the removed oil. Call your local landfill to ask what their rules are for county residents.</p>
<p><b><u>Disconnect Piping and Drain:</u></b> All piping including the tank fill and vent lines must be disconnected, drained, and removed.</p>
<p><b><u>Empty Tank:</u></b> Empty the tank of remaining liquids and sludge. The removed material must be placed in approved containers and properly disposed of in compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations.</p>
<p><b><u>Remove Tank:</u></b> Once the tank is emptied and all petroleum vapors are confirmed to have been inerted (do not inert the tank vapors in a basement), it can be safely removed.</p>



## **General Procedures**

**Report and Cleanup a Release:** You and the contractor performing the work must report any contamination found during the tank removal to the Department immediately, but not later than 2 hours, upon discovery. Call 410-537-3442 during work hours or 1-866-633-4686 after hours.

**Excavate Contaminated Soil:** If oil contaminated soil is encountered, excavate it to the maximum extent practicable. Samples may be collected for lab analysis to document the cleanup. Your contractor can assist you with the appropriate EPA sample method and procedures or you may contact a Department representative.

**Remove Piping:** Remove all fill, supply, return, and vent lines. (Improperly abandoned fill pipes are often a means for unintentional releases into basements.)

**Dispose of the Tank:** Once the tank is removed 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.

**Dispose of Contaminated Soil:** Oil contaminated soil must be disposed at an approved disposal location (permitted landfill or contaminated soil treatment facility). Call your local landfill to ask what their rules are for county residents.

**Reimbursement Program:** If there has been evidence of a heating oil release, submit an application to the Residential Heating Oil Tank Site Cleanup Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program) with all required documentation. See the Department's Residential Heating Oil webpage for an application and additional details:  
<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/ResidentialHeatingOil.aspx>.

## **CONTACTS**

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

To report oil spills call 1-866-633-4686. Available 24 hours a day.