



FACTS ABOUT: UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLOSURE IN PLACE FOR REGULATED TANKS

Maryland regulations require proper closure of an underground storage tank (UST) by removal. MDE may grant the owner of a UST permission to close their UST in place, in certain circumstances. Closing a UST in place involves filling the tank in place with a solid, inert flowable material.

- Note that all regulated UST systems in Maryland must be closed under the onsite supervision and direction of a Maryland Certified UST System Technician or Remover, including closure in place.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRED PRIOR TO REQUESTING MDE PERMISSION

- Comply with closure notification requirements set forth in COMAR 26.10.10.02.
- Perform a site assessment where contamination is most likely to be present to determine if there was a release, in compliance with COMAR 26.10.10.03.
- Provide the Oil Control Program with site assessment results for a complete review.
- Provide the Oil Control Program an engineering report that confirms that the removal of the UST would have an adverse effect on the site building foundation or other important structures or utilities within the immediate tank area. Where closure in place is an obvious choice, MDE may waive the engineering report requirement.

If MDE determines that closure in place is warranted, the tank owner is advised in writing that permission has been granted for UST closure in place.

PROCEDURE FOR CLOSURE IN PLACE

Step	Requirement
Obtain a Contractor	Hire a Maryland Certified UST System Technician or Remover to do the tank closure. A list of State certified contractors can be found on the Oil Control Program's Fact Sheets, Publications, and Reports webpage.
Obtain a Local Permit	Before any excavation work can be started, a permit to abandon the underground tank may be required from a county agency, such as the local fire department, health department, or planning department.
Remove Product from the Tank	All product must be removed from the tank and lines before closing or removing the tank.



Step	Requirement
Conduct Excavation	Dig to the top of the tank and expose the piping.
Disconnect Piping and Drain	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 MDE approval, it must be capped and remain in place.
Empty Tank	Empty the tank of remaining product. The removed material must be properly disposed of in compliance with State and local regulations.
Open Tank	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.
Clean Tank	Thoroughly clean tank of liquid and sludge. Ensure the removed material is properly disposed of in compliance with State and local regulations.
Collect Soil Samples	If applicable, collect soil samples from two feet below the UST bottom to document any soil contamination. Soil samples must be analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by EPA Method 8260 and for total petroleum hydrocarbons – diesel and gasoline range organics (TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO) by EPA Method 8015. Additional analyses may be necessary based on product stored. This step may be completed by the site assessment discussed above (i.e. prior to MDE approval for abandonment in place).
Fill Tank	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.
Report and Cleanup a Release	Contamination of soil or groundwater found during the tank removal or closure must be reported to MDE immediately upon discovery. Call (410) 537-3442 during work hours or 1-866-633-4686 after hours.
Excavate Soil	If oil contaminated soil is encountered, excavate it to the maximum extent practicable.
Remove Piping	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.
Backfill	Backfill all excavations and secure the job site.
Dispose of Soil	Oil contaminated soil must be disposed at an approved disposal location.
Records	Submit a UST system closure report to include, but not limited to: description of the activities associated with the UST and piping abandonment; photographs; receipts of the material used to fill the tank and any field screening results collected.
Registration	Amend the facility's UST registration form on file with MDE. The UST registration form can be found on the Land Permit Applications and Instructions webpage.

CONTACTS

For further information on UST closure in place, 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.