

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO HEATING OIL STORAGE TANKS



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SAFE AND EFFICIENT STORAGE

Having an oil tank on your property puts you in control of your comfort. You pay only for the fuel that's delivered, with no estimates or questions. And you can choose from many heating oil companies and delivery options.

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.*

Common tank sizes are 275 and 330 gallons for aboveground tanks and 500 and 1,000 gallons for underground tanks.

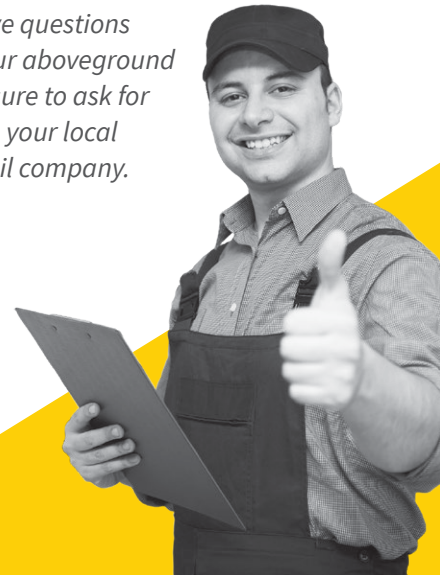


Some newer aboveground tanks are double-walled, providing extra protection.

ABOVEGROUND TANK CHECKLIST

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

- ✓ *Look for leakage from tank fittings, valves, filters, piping or the tank gauge; look for weeping (moisture or stains), especially at the bottom of the tank.*
- ✓ *Inspect for signs of spills around the tank, fill pipe and tank 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 — or even near it.*
- ✓ *Look for signs of external corrosion. An aboveground tank can be painted to address minor corrosion and improve the appearance of the tank. This is especially beneficial in the case of an outdoor tank.*
- ✓ *Keep the area around your tank free of any debris, storage boxes, etc.*
- ✓ *If you have questions about your aboveground tank, be sure to ask for help from your local heating oil company.*



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 now than with tanks constructed decades ago.

The life expectancy of a heating oil tank varies depending on the materials used in its construction, how it was installed, and the environment it is in. Most tanks last for several decades without a problem. But like your home's roof, a heating oil tank will eventually need to be replaced.

If you think your tank may need to be replaced or if you have an underground tank, here are some tips:

↑ **Any new tank installation should be aboveground**, and the installation can be customized for hard-to-fit places. Aboveground tanks can be installed in your basement or outside the home.

📄 Before replacing your tank, talk with your heating oil company about **available equipment rebates** that can help you offset your tank installation costs. You could secure hundreds of dollars in rebates, and you might also qualify for furnace or boiler upgrade rebates. Funds are limited and may only be offered on a seasonal basis, so make sure that you contact your heating oil company first!

OIL TANKS ARE LIKE ANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT.

While heating oil tanks typically last for decades, they have a finite life span and eventually need to be replaced.



YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS

A number of parts contribute to the proper functioning of heating oil tanks, from supply lines and filters to piping and more. Your local heating oil company can help make sure that your system is always in good shape. Please contact them if you have questions.

GUIDELINES FOR REPLACEMENT

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

- Their tank is several decades old and is nearing the end of its life.
- Today's tanks are more compact, attractive, and built better.
- A new tank will increase the value of the home and be more appealing to potential home buyers.
- A new tank will virtually eliminate safety concerns or issues with potential tank leaks.

If you are replacing an underground tank with a new 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.
- Be sure to work with a reputable company that is insured to remove or abandon underground tanks.
- Before proceeding, contact your local heating oil company to ask about any municipal codes or permits that may affect the abandonment or removal of an underground tank.

MORE RESOURCES FOR YOU

Your greatest resources are the local heating oil companies in your area. They are energy experts who can answer your questions, make recommendations for improving energy efficiency and provide you with the very best solutions for all of your energy needs. Reach out to them. They'll be happy to help you.

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