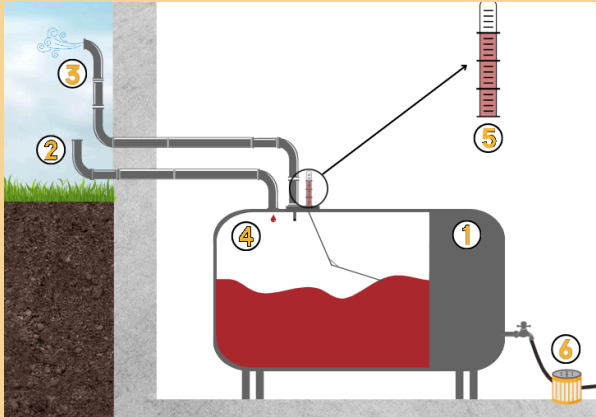


## Self Inspection Checklist



### ✓ 01 THE TANK

Do you see rust, weeps, wet spots, or holes on the tanks surface? Are the tank legs rusted, unstable, or on an uneven foundation?

### ✓ 02 THE FILL PIPE

Do you see any signs of spillage around the pipe?

### ✓ 03 THE VENT PIPE

Is the vent pipe clogged by ice, snow, or other debris such as bee or spider nests?

### ✓ 04 THE WHISTLE/VENT ALARM

Is the vent whistle obstructed or producing no sound when the tank is being filled?

### ✓ 05 THE FLOAT GAUGE

Is the gauge cracked, stuck or frozen? Do you see any signs of leaking around the gauge?

### ✓ 05 THE FLOAT GAUGE

Are there any signs of oil leakage near the filter? Does the oil line run either under concrete or aboveground without a protective casing?

If the answer is "YES" to any of the above questions, call an oil burner technician for a more detailed inspection and corrective measures.

## TIPS FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

- Inspect the tank using the checklists in this pamphlet.
- Look for indications of leaks and spills.
- In most cases, when you purchase the property, you inherit all liability associated with the tank.

## TO REPORT AN OIL OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE

DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:00)  
Call (401) 537-4533

ANYTIME, ANY EMERGENCY  
Call (401) 222-3070 at the DEM Hot-line

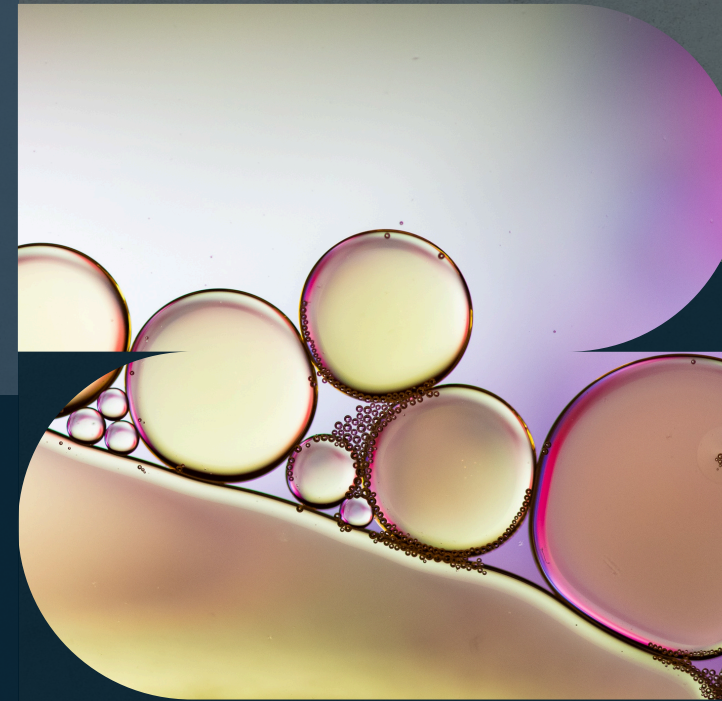
More Information

<https://dem.ri.gov/>



RI DEM

235 Promenade Street Providence, RI 02908



# HOME HEATING OIL TANKS

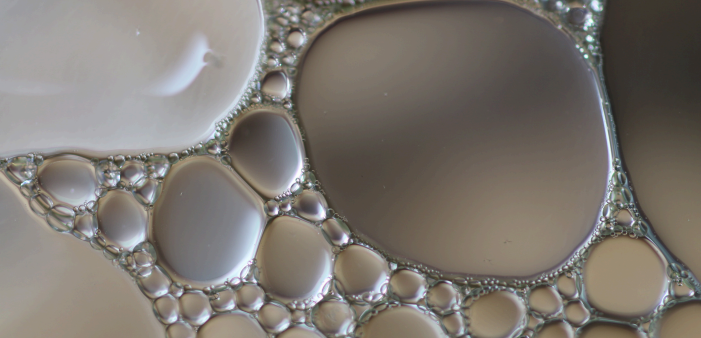
## A GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Department of Environmental Management is reminding Rhode Island homeowners that proper care and maintenance of their fuel tank, lines and furnace can reduce the chance of oil spills and costly environmental remediation.

<https://dem.ri.gov/>

(401) 222-3070





## RESIDENTIAL HOME HEATING OIL TANKS

Residential heating oil tanks primarily store NO. 2 fuel oil. Heating oil provides heating to homes and other places of residence during the colder New England months.

### TANK LOCATION

**Aboveground storage tanks within a residence:**

- Tanks should be placed in an accessible location.
- Tanks should be the size and shape to allow for the installation and removal of the entire unit.
  - If the tank must be cut apart to be removed from a residence, it could create a hazardous environment.

**Aboveground storage tanks outside a residence:**

- Tanks located outside should be no less than 5 feet from an adjoining property line.
- Tanks should be suitably protected from the weather and from physical damage.
- Tanks should be placed on a concrete pad, so that in the event of a leak soil will not be contaminated.

## MAINTENANCE

Proper tank maintenance can prevent possible spills and leaks. Leaking tanks can contaminate public and private drinking water, pollute soils and create the potential for fires and explosions. Spills may subject tank owners to expensive remediation, which may not be covered by homeowners' insurance policies.

- Routinely inspect your tank and attached equipment using the checklist in this pamphlet.
- Install spill and overfill prevention devices.
- Consider installing a secondary containment structure around aboveground tanks. For example, a cement pad and barrier.
- If you see any tank issues immediately call your oil company and have the tank inspected by a technician.

## Heating Oil Tank Leaks and Spills

### INDICATIONS OF LEAKS OR SPILLS

- Soil is saturated with heating oil.
- Soil or other surfaces are stained.
- Vapors are present in the soil or basement.
- Fuel is observed in the basement, a stream, an underground utility line, etc.
- Drinking water supplies are contaminated.
- Oil consumption has suddenly increased.
- Furnace is operating haphazardly.

Once the leak and spill has been inspected by professionals they will help inform you of the steps needed for clean-up.

### SPILL MANAGEMENT

- Find the source of the spill.
- Stop or contain the release using a particle absorbent or pads.
- Notify your local fire department.
- Call your heating oil company.
- Notify RI DEM.
- Ventilate affected areas, and close off unaffected areas.
- Keep detailed, accurate records.
- Contact your insurance provider.

## Tank Abandonment and Removal

If the a tank and its related piping are abandoned or removed for whatever reason, the tank and all piping connected to it, including the outside fill and vent piping and any supply piping connected to the heating system, shall be:

- 1.Emptied of all liquid and sludge.
- 2.Cleaned and rendered free of combustible vapors.
- 3.Removed from the premises or property.
- 4.Properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

Exterior fill and vent piping must be removed due to the potential danger for an accidental delivery. The oil company only sees the exterior connection and may not be aware that the tank has been removed.