



OIL TANK DECOMMISSIONING

Why do I need to decommission an underground oil tank?

The International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 57 requires that underground tanks, out of service for one year, be removed from the ground or abandoned in place.

Steps to decommission an above ground oil tank:

- Visit <https://plia.wa.gov> for information regarding any monetary assistance available for underground removal.
- Visit the Department of Ecology [Underground storage tanks - Washington State Department of Ecology](#) for contractors and other information. Check Washington State Department of Labor and Industries for licensed underground tank removal contractors.
- Complete and submit a Master Application and Fire Code Construction/Operation Permit Application to the Building Development Center (BDC). Applications and nonresidential building permit fee guide are available online at www.thurstoncountybdc.com. The fire code construction permit fee and fire code construction plan review fee will be charged at the time of application.
- The permit will be issued when the plan review is complete.
- Call the fire inspector at (360) 628-3409 for inspection.

Removing the tank:

Removal of above ground and underground tanks shall be in accordance with the following:
For your own records, it is recommended that you electronically record the process.

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2. Flammable and combustible liquids must be removed from the tank and connected piping.
 - *(The tank must be rinsed clean; waste from cleaning must be disposed of properly.)*
3. Piping at tank openings that is not to be used further shall be disconnected.
4. Piping shall be removed from the ground.
 - Exception:** Piping can be abandoned in place where the fire code official determines that removal is not practical.
5. Tank openings shall be capped or plugged, leaving a 1/8-inch diameter (3.2 mm to 6.4 mm) opening for pressure equalization.
6. Tanks shall be purged of vapor and inerted prior to removal.
7. All exterior above-grade fill and vent piping shall be permanently removed.
 - Exception:** Piping associated with bulk plants, terminal facilities and refineries.

Disposal: Tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local regulations (Retain a receipt for your records).

- *Fill the hole with clean fill material;*
- *Look and smell for the presence of fuel or waste in the soil;*
- *If contamination is suspected, secure the site and contact the Department of Ecology;*
- *See instructions below regarding the "Certificate of Removal".*

Abandoning the tank:

Tanks abandoned in place shall meet the following standards:

1. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connected piping.
2. The suction, inlet, gauge, vapor return and vapor lines shall be disconnected.
3. The tank shall be filled completely within an approved inter solid material.
4. Remaining underground piping shall be capped or plugged.
5. A record of tank size, location and date of abandonment shall be retained.
6. All exterior above-grade fill piping shall be permanently removed when tanks are abandoned or removed.
 - *Look and smell for the presence of fuel or waste in the soil;*
 - *If contamination is suspected, secure the site and contact the Department of Ecology;*
 - *See instructions below regarding the "certificate of Abandonment".*