ABOVEGROUND TANK INSPECTION

Follow this checklist to inspect your tank and help prevent future problems.

- ☑ Make sure the fill cap and vent cap are secured and not clogged or restricted by ice, snow or insect nests.
- ☑ Look for leakage from tank fittings, valves, filters, piping or the tank gauge; also check for weeping at tank seams.
- ☑ Inspect for any signs of spills around the tank area, fill pipe or vent lines.
- ☑ Check to see that the tank legs are in good condition and not sunk into the ground. The "belly" of the tank should not be touching the ground.
- ☑ Check for signs of corrosion. An aboveground tank can be painted to inhibit minor corrosion and improve the tank's appearance (especially beneficial in the case of an outdoor tank).

New generation aboveground tanks offer many advantages.

TANK TESTING

In some cases, a homeowner who is buying or selling a home is faced with a requirement from a lender or an insurance company to have an underground oil tank tested. If this happens to you, here are three things to keep in mind when considering your options.

1. There are several tests that can be conducted and the need for each varies. Often, a combination of tests is appropriate. To avoid confusion and to get information on the most accurate test for you, consult with a local oilheat dealer who can best assess your situation.

2. Any work should be conducted by a company that is certified to do tank testing.

3. Seek out advice from your local oilheat provider, who can be an important source for up-to-date information on tank issues.

Looking for more information about oilheat?

Log on to oilheatamerica.com.

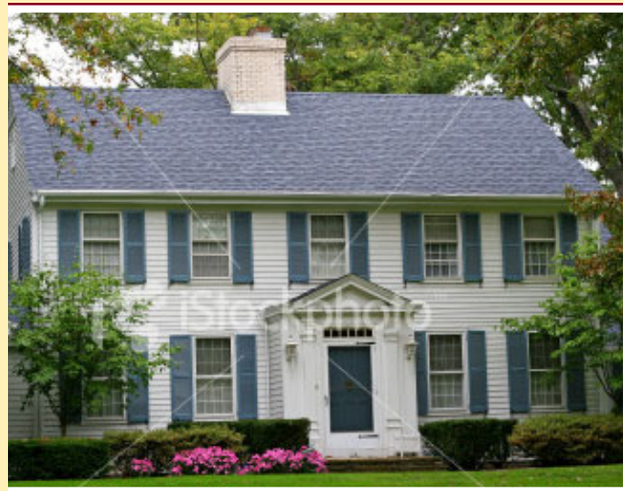
NORA
NATIONAL OILHEAT RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

If you're looking for a local oilheat dealer, visit **www.mapda.org**

7948.600-9847

GUIDE TO HEATING OIL STORAGE TANKS



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

www.oilheatamerica.org

SAFE AND EFFICIENT STORAGE

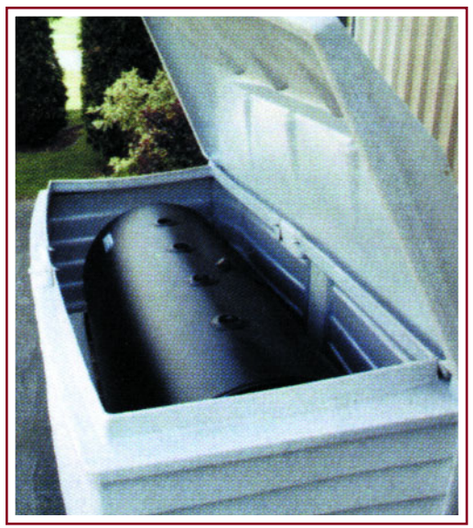
Having an oil tank on your property puts you in control of your comfort. You pay only for the fuel that's delivered, with no estimates or questions. And you can choose from many oil dealers and delivery options.

TYPES OF TANKS

There are two kinds of residential oil storage tanks:

- An aboveground storage tank is a tank located outside of a home or in a basement, garage or crawl space.
- An underground storage tank is a tank that's buried in the ground.

The size of a tank is indicated on the fuel delivery ticket from the heating oil company. The most common tank sizes are 275 and 330 gallons for aboveground tanks, and 550 and 1,000 gallons for underground tanks.



Many homeowners now have aboveground tanks installed inside tank enclosures, such as the one pictured here.

UNDERGROUND TANKS RARELY LEAK

The chance of a home heating oil tank leaking is extraordinarily low. According to a major national study, "The frequency of releases from all underground storage tanks containing home heating oil is well below 1%."*

Because heating oil is nontoxic and biodegradable, there are **no federal or state laws in our area** that require removal of a properly functioning, active, residential heating oil tank.

* Environ Corporation, "Analysis of the Potential Hazards Posed by No. 2 Fuel Oil Contained in Underground Storage Tanks."

REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

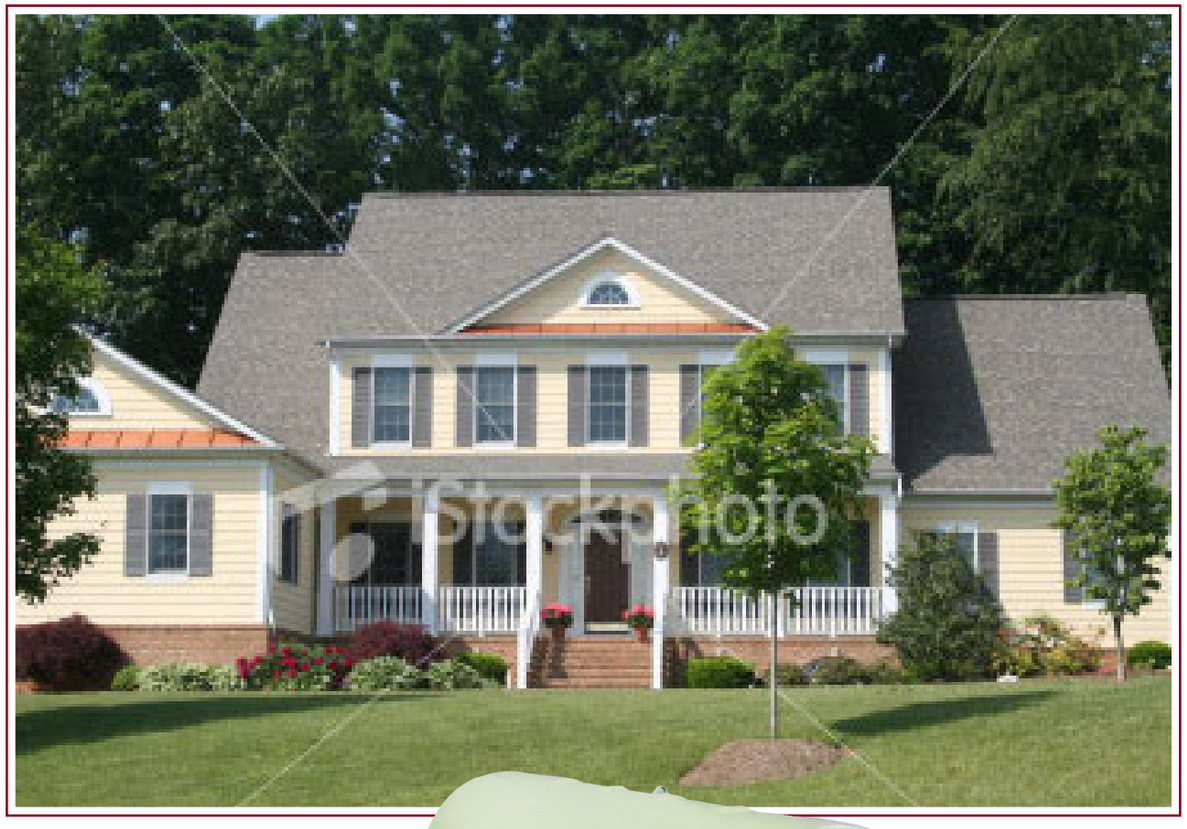
The life expectancies of buried oil tanks vary, depending on the materials used in their manufacture, how the tank was installed and the composition of the surrounding soil. Most last for several decades without problems. But like your roof, an underground tank will eventually need to be replaced.

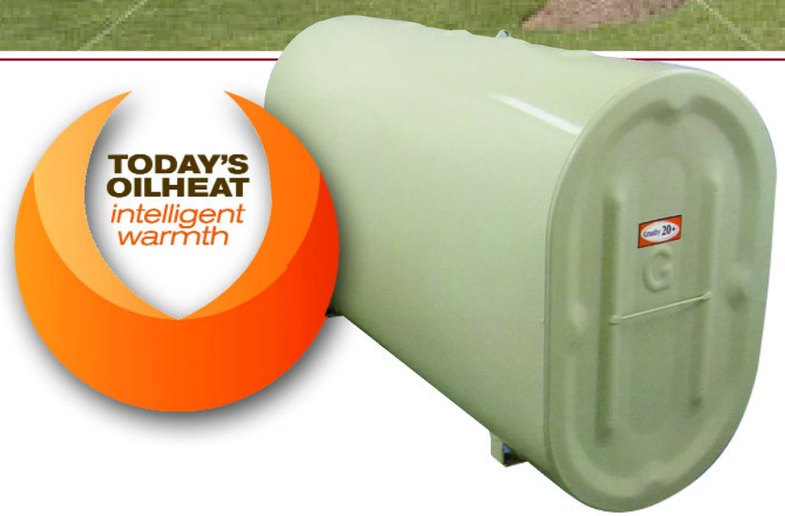
If you believe your tank is old and in need of replacement, you have two good options.

1. Replace an underground tank with a fiberglass or new corrosion-resistant, cathodically protected underground tank. With today's technology, a new tank can be isolated from the ground, making it worry free.

2. Replace a buried tank with an aboveground tank. These tanks are normally smaller (275 or 330 gallons) and can be customized for hard-to-fit places. Aboveground tanks can be installed outside the home and hidden in a tank enclosure.

Both of these options enable you to continue enjoying the savings, safety and service advantages of oilheat.





GUIDELINES FOR REPLACEMENT

If a homeowner decides to replace an underground tank with an aboveground tank, the buried tank must be either removed or properly abandoned. To close the tank, it should be emptied, cleaned and then filled with an inert material such as sand.

Before proceeding with any tank abandonment, homeowners should contact their local oilheat company to ask about municipal codes that may affect the abandonment or removal of an underground tank.

HOW TO TELL IF AN OIL TANK HAS BEEN CLOSED PROPERLY

Again, the best resource to contact is your local oilheat dealer. They can help you locate documents confirming that the tank has been properly abandoned. Also, if a tank has been legally and properly abandoned, there will be no vent pipe or fill pipe on the property.

Oilheat dealers can help

Many oil companies are qualified to inspect and replace underground and aboveground oil tanks. They could also refer you to an independent contractor that is certified to do this type of work. Contact your local oilheat company for more information.