

FACT SHEET  
RESIDENTIAL UNDERGROUND OIL TANKS

This information is presented by the Fairfield Fire Marshal's Office to inform the residential property owner of those laws and regulations affecting the use, installation and removal of underground fuel oil tanks (less than 2,100 gallon capacity). Please do not hesitate to call us (254-4720) with any questions.

- An underground residential fuel oil tank, of less than 2,100 gal capacity, may continue to be used as long as it is not leaking AND it is still supplying residential heating equipment.

Note: The DEP estimates that 25% of underground storage tanks are leaking and that the average life span of a plain steel tank underground is 10 to 15 years.

- An underground fuel oil tank **no longer in use** must be removed or properly abandoned in place. (Complete removal is always preferred unless physical conditions make abandonment in place necessary)
- An underground fuel oil tank **that is leaking** is an environmental issue covered under Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection regulations. **DEP notification** of a leaking tank **is required** (860-424-3338).
- The **removal or abandonment** of any underground fuel oil tank **requires a permit** from the Fire Marshal; there is no fee for the permit and an application form is a part of this package.
- **Residential tank removal contractors** must (as of October 1, 2004) have a Connecticut HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR'S REGISTRATION.  
[**Exception:** If the contractor has a valid Connecticut Plumbing and Heating License **OR** is listed with the Conn. D.E.P. as a Hazardous Waste Contractor] The requirements of the Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code must be adhered to.
- **Remediation contractors** (those who actually remove and dispose of liquid waste and contaminated soil) must be listed as HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTRACTORS with the DEP. Some contractors only do removals; some do both removal and remediation.
- **Installation** of a new fuel oil tank (whether above ground or in ground) **requires a permit** from the Town Building Department.
- It is highly **recommended** that soil sampling be done with any removal or abandonment.