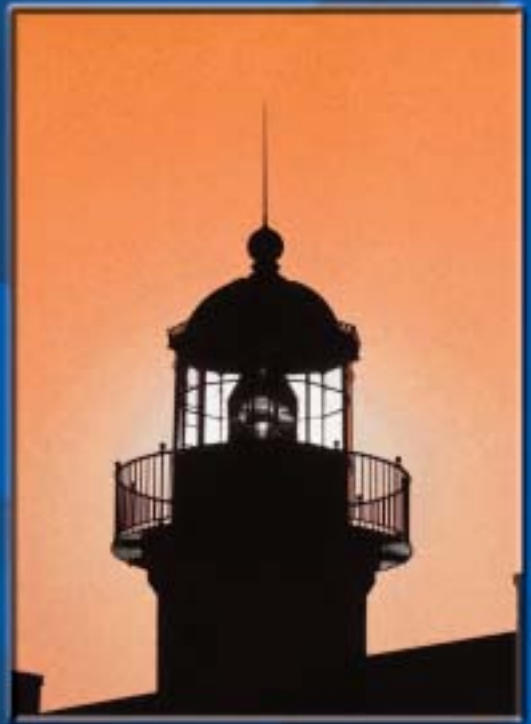


Looking for more
information about Oilheat?

Log on to www.oilheatcomfortcorp.com



Long Island's Guide To Heating Oil Storage Tanks



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O.H.C.C.

Oil Heat Comfort Corp., Inc.

You probably don't think about your heating oil tank that often, but without one, your Oilheat system simply could not function. Because your tank is so crucial to your home comfort, we thought it was important to create this booklet, which includes up-to-date information on types of Oilheat storage tanks, tank regulations, testing, abandonment and replacement. We hope you find this guide helpful.



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We hope you found this booklet helpful.

As you have read, Oilheat storage tanks are, for the most part, worry-free. However, should an emergency occur, or if you have any questions, comments or even complaints, please refer to the telephone numbers below.

Helpful Telephone Numbers

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

General Tank Information Helpline: 518-402-9543

Spills Hotline: 1-800-457-7362

Regional Office (Suffolk and Nassau Counties): (631) 444-0204

Environmental Permits: (631) 444-0355.

To Report Environmental Conservation

Law Violations: 1-800-TIPP-DEC (1-800-847-7332)

Delegated County Contacts — Nassau

Nassau County Department of Health: (516) 571-3410

Nassau Fire Commission: (516) 572-1041

Delegated County Contact — Suffolk

Suffolk County Department of Health Services: (631) 854-2529

About Oil Heat Comfort Corp., Inc.

Oil Heat Comfort Corp. is the premier source of Oilheat information and education on Long Island. Our mission is to:

- Help consumers understand the benefits of Oilheat, the “Intelligent Choice” for Long Island homeowners and businesses
- Provide the latest industry training programs necessary to help Oilheat professionals advance in their field
- Reach out to petroleum marketers and industry suppliers on Long Island
- Educate local real estate professionals about the advantages of Oilheat through the Long Island Oilheat-Realty Partnership Program

Please feel free to contact us with any general questions about Oilheat:

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Visit our web site! oilheatcomfortcorp.com

◆ Guidelines for Replacement

In both counties, 275-gallon aboveground tanks used solely for on-premises heating are allowed at single-family residences. A concrete pad, or other impervious barrier, extending six inches from the outside boundaries of the tank must be used to satisfy stability requirements in Nassau only. Additional requirements include overfill protection, proper venting and a gauge. New **underground tanks** with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less must be constructed of single-walled fiberglass or steel clad with fiberglass reinforced plastic as a minimum, and tested before being placed in service.



For a complete comparison of regulations and requirements between Nassau and Suffolk Counties, please see chart on pages 6 and 7.

ASK ABOUT TANK PROTECTION

Most Oilheat companies offer inexpensive programs that provide protection against those rare times when a tank leaks. A typical tank protection program will include coverage for cleanup and tank replacement costs. Contact your local oil company for more information.

◆ Community Comfort

Long Islanders have been living with the benefits of Oilheat through decades of safety, security and comfort. And the numbers speak for themselves. Did you know that 55% of homes in Nassau and 63% of homes in Suffolk County rely on it? When you add local businesses to the mix, the percentage climbs to a whopping 70%!

Research shows that homeowners prefer the fuel they are familiar with, and, as these statistics show, many already have a preference for Oilheat. In fact, in a recent survey, **over 95% of consumers gave Oilheat the “thumbs up,”** citing personal service as one of its strongest benefits.

Homeowners and businesses know they can depend on their favorite fuel's safe and secure on-site storage with today's rugged tanks. They enjoy complete comfort and peace of mind along with an ample, uninterrupted supply.



Safe and Efficient Storage

Having an oil tank on your property puts you in control of your comfort. The storage tank allows you to have an adequate supply of heating oil ready for immediate use with the arrival of cold weather. 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, such as automatic delivery. By tracking the weather and your past fuel consumption, your dealer can refill the tank before the fuel level gets too low. You never need to think about it.

Advances in technology have resulted in the manufacture of tanks made from corrosion-resistant materials such as fiberglass and protected steel. Properly installed and maintained, today's oil tanks will last many years.



What Are the Options for Replacing My Tank?

There are **many economical options** for replacing older or leaking tanks. You can have a **new steel, fiberglass or double walled safety tank installed in your basement** ... or choose a **new aboveground safety tank for outside your home**. Today's oil tanks are manufactured to the highest standards — offering economical, durable, safe, compact and problem-free storage. They're lined with a fiberglass material that resists corrosion and rust. Plus, they're often smaller and weigh less than older models. Today's aboveground tanks are relatively small (275 gallons) and they can be customized for hard-to-fit places. For example, a vertical tank can be installed in small or unusual-shaped spaces in a basement or garage.



Many Oilheat dealers offer attractive coverings for your outdoor tank to protect it from the elements and provide secondary containment. They are available in a variety of colors to match your house's siding.

You can also replace a buried tank with a modern, **corrosion-resistant underground tank**. With today's technology, a new tank can be isolated from the ground, making it worry-free.

What Does Abandonment in Place Involve?

Abandonment in place makes upgrading your tank easier and far less costly. In Nassau County, abandonment in place is permitted for all heating oil tanks used for on-site heating, regardless of size. Where the tank is less than or equal to 1,100 gallons, the owner must attest that the tank is not known to be leaking. Where the tank is greater than 1,100 gallons, the tank must pass a tightness test within three (3) months prior to abandonment, or at least one well must be installed and monitored for one year.



In Suffolk County, only tanks less than 1,100 gallons may be abandoned in place. All abandoned tanks 1,100 gallons or more must be removed from the ground unless the Department of Health Services grants permission to abandon in place.

New York State law requires that all abandoned heating oil tanks be emptied, cleaned and purged of all vapors. The contractor must completely empty the old tank and all underground lines, including the vent, suction, return and remote fill ports. The vent and fill lines to the tank must be cut or removed below grade to prevent any possibility of an accidental delivery after abandonment. Underground tanks must be completely filled with an inert material such as sand, concrete slurry or an approved foam product.



No Replacement Laws

A number of state and national studies have determined that the chance of a leak from an underground heating oil tank is extremely low. Because heating oil is not considered a major threat to the environment, there are no federal or New York laws that require the removal of a properly functioning, active, residential heating oil tank where the fuel is consumed on the premises.



Types of Tanks

There are two kinds of residential oil storage tanks. An aboveground storage tank may be located outside of a house, or it may be in a basement, garage or crawl space. An underground storage tank is buried beneath the ground. The size of a tank can be determined by checking an oil delivery ticket from the home's heating oil company. Common tank sizes are 275 gallons for an aboveground tank and 290, 550 and 1,000 gallons for an underground tank.



***Aboveground
Indoor/Outdoor
Single Wall Steel
Oil Tank***



***Underground
Single or Double
Walled Tank***



***2 in 1 Indoor Safety
Tank — galvanized
steel tank over
polyethylene inner
tank***



***Aboveground
Indoor/Outdoor
Fiberglass Tank***

Tank Abandonment

In July 1990, Nassau County amended its regulations to allow for the voluntary abandonment of non-leaking tanks less than 1,100 gallons in capacity (most residential tanks). The Small Tank Abandonment program in Nassau County is an innovative program designed to encourage owners of small non-leaking tanks to be proactive in their approach to spill prevention and properly close their old oil tanks to help prevent the possibility of future leakage and the attendant environmental costs.



The goal of the program is to upgrade every underground tank in the County; through the Small Tank Registry, the only one of its kind in New York State, county officials are able to track all small tank closures. Since the program started, the Nassau County Department of Health has recorded over 36,000 residential underground tank closures, representing 57% of the estimated small tank population. This registry has proven to be extremely useful for Realtors® and attorneys in the area when facilitating home sales.

Aboveground Tank Inspection

If your basement or aboveground tank can be inspected or is visible, your local Oilheat dealer can check your tank during your annual tune-up. You can also visually inspect the tank yourself. Watch for these signs: rust, weeping, or wet spots on the tank's surface ... signs of leakage around the filter, valves, gauge or piping ... dead vegetation in the tank fill area ... an oil scent in the basement ... or a loose fill cap or vent cap.

Underground Tank Testing

Contrary to popular opinion, underground oil tanks can be tested for tightness. Advanced technology allows for non-pressurized tests that can determine if there is a leak in the tank ... with results available in as little as two hours. To avoid confusion and to get a reliable assessment, consult with your local Oilheat dealer and make sure that the work is conducted by a properly licensed contractor.

Frequently, a homebuyer or seller is faced with a requirement from a lender or insurance company to have an underground oil tank tested. That's why it's a good idea if you're selling your home to test your tank or better still, have it replaced **before** entering into a purchase agreement with a buyer. This will enhance the marketability of your property and avoid confusion and unnecessary delays during the real estate transaction.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

If your oil tank is underground, you probably don't worry about it too much. The fact is that if your underground tank is under twenty years old, the chance of a leak is very rare because

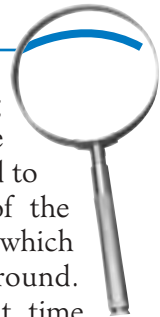


these tanks were constructed using state-of-the-art steel technology or fiberglass materials. However, it is true that older unprotected steel tanks have a higher probability of failure because the metal can corrode over a

period of time when exposed to the unique minerals and soil found on your property. Unfortunately, many homeowners and businesses play the odds and wait until they have a problem before taking any action.

Is It Time to Check Your Tank?

The key factors in determining your tank's life span are the thickness and type of material used to fabricate the tank, the quality of the installation, and the type of soil in which the tank is buried, if underground. Depending on these factors, that time span can be less than 20 years from the time of installation.



Storage Tanks Used for On-Site Heating



NASSAU COUNTY

**1100 Gals.
or Less**

**More than
1100 Gals.**

Registration Required	No	Yes
Testing Required	No	Yes
Test Schedule	NONE	Annually for corrodible tanks installed <i>before</i> 8/1/66; every 2 years if installed <i>after</i> 8/1/66. Every 5 years for non-corrodible tanks
New Tank Standards		
Underground	Single-Walled non-corrodible	Double-Walled or equivalent
Aboveground	275-gal. on concrete pad at a single family residence only otherwise, same	Dike; impervious underlayment; monitoring; overfill protection
Abandonment Allowed	Yes, with affidavit that tank is not leaking	Yes, with tightness test within past 90 days, or monitoring well for one year
Removal or Abandonment Deadline	NONE	All tanks installed prior to 8/1/86 have now been replaced



SUFFOLK COUNTY

**1100 Gals.
or Less**

**More than
1100 Gals.**

Registration Required	No	Yes
Testing Required	No	Yes
Test Schedule	NONE	On 10th anniversary, and every 5 years thereafter
New Tank Standards		
Underground	Single-Walled non-corrodible	Double-Walled or equivalent
Aboveground	YES	Dike; impervious underlayment; monitoring; overfill protection
Abandonment Allowed	YES	Yes, with waiver from County
Removal or Abandonment Deadline	NONE	None for tank used for on-premises space heating