

Heating Oil Tank Bulletin #1

Requirements for Heating Oil Tanks No Longer In Use

This fact sheet is for homeowners and businesses who convert from oil heat to another source of heat, and/or who have abandoned/unused heating oil tanks on their property.

This information does NOT apply to heating oil tanks that are still in active use with an oil furnace.

Oregon law (ORS 466.878) requires you to pump out all heating oil from your abandoned (that is, unused*) underground heating oil tank when:

- You stop using oil as your heating source; or
- You have replaced the tank with a new one; or
- When you sell your home or business.

**Note: A tank is considered to be abandoned or unused when it has been permanently disconnected from an oil furnace and is not actively used for heating a home or business.*

So what does that mean for me?

1. When you no longer heat with oil:

At the time you convert from oil to another heating source, or replace an underground tank with a new one, you must:

- Empty all remaining oil from your underground heating oil tank; and
- Properly manage the oil that is pumped out from the tank (that is, have it collected for reuse or recycling, or properly dispose of it).

An oil recycler will pump out your tank for about \$100. Companies who pump oil from tanks are searchable online and in the Yellow Pages under "Oils - Waste."

In case you decide to sell your home or business, be prepared to show documentation on when the tank was emptied. (See situation #2).

After your tank is emptied of oil, actual decommissioning is voluntary. But DEQ strongly recommends that you also have the tank permanently decommissioned when it is pumped out. "Decommissioning" is a generic term for taking a tank out of service by cleaning it, then removing it or filling it in place with an inert material.

DEQ has adopted standards for decommissioning heating oil tanks. If you want to have the decommissioning performed in compliance with state standards, you must:

- Have soil samples collected to confirm that no oil contamination was found.*
- Have the decommissioning project certified by a licensed Heating Oil Service Provider.
- Submit the certified report and documentation to DEQ with a filing fee for a clean decommissioning (no contamination detected, \$100), a Soil Matrix cleanup (\$250), a Generic Remedy cleanup (\$350), **OR** a Risk-Based cleanup (\$450). DEQ will send you a letter that confirms the decommissioning project is complete.

**Note: you may choose not to have soil samples collected (in which case your tank decommissioning won't qualify for registration with DEQ). However, be aware that some property buyers will want samples collected so they do not assume liability for any problem found in the future.*

If you empty the tank but do not decommission it, you must leave the tank vent lines in place and open.

2. When you sell your home:

When you sell your home or business, you must:

- Ensure that any abandoned heating oil tank on your property is empty of oil; and
- Provide documentation to the buyer showing that the tank has been emptied.

What is "documentation" that a tank is empty?

- The best documentation is the certified report from a [Licensed Heating Oil Service Provider](#), and registered with DEQ, that the tank was decommissioned.
- Other documentation could include dated receipts from the company that pumped the oil out of the tank; or
- Receipts from the oil recycling company if you pumped the tank yourself.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact the DEQ Office of Communication and Outreach for more information: (503) 229-5696.



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