

# Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In accordance with RCW 90.76 and WAC 173-360, all non-exempt USTs (see page 2) used to store regulated substances must be registered with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) by the owner of the tank. A UST is defined as having at least 10% of its volume, including any piping, below the surface of the ground.

You must register an underground storage tank if it contains any of the following substances:

- **Petroleum**, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is liquid at 60° F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute.
- **Hazardous substances**, including solvents, acids, caustics, wood preservatives, pesticides, herbicides, and other hazardous chemicals. A complete list of applicable hazardous substances is in Appendix E [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list\\_of\\_lists.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list_of_lists.pdf). Answers to frequent hazardous substance questions about underground storage tanks are at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/frequent-questions-about-underground-storage-tanks>.

**Note:** Under federal rules, all existing USTs in operation any time after January 1, 1974, were to have been reported to Ecology by May 8, 1986. If you own an existing tank which has not yet been registered, you must do so using the *Business License Application* and *UST Addendum*.

For existing, previously unreported tanks which were taken out of operation before November 8, 1984, the owner currently in possession of the tank is responsible for completing the registration. If the responsible owner cannot be located, the owner of the property on which the tank is located must complete the registration.

If you purchase a property with an existing UST system, you must file a *Business License Application* and *UST Addendum* within 30 days.

## NEW INSTALLATIONS

If you intend to install a UST, you must file a *30-Day Notice* with Ecology at least 30 days before new installation work begins.

You must also file a *Business License Application* and *UST Addendum* with Business Licensing Service within 30 days after a new installation has been completed.

Effective October 1, 2012, all newly installed UST systems must be double walled and use “interstitial monitoring” as the form of release detection for tanks and piping. Interstitial monitoring is a method that looks for evidence of a leak in the space between the primary wall of a tank or piping and an outer barrier.

## RETROFITTING EXISTING TANKS

If the UST system is retrofitted with new dispensers or a portion of piping is to be replaced, be sure to check with a UST inspector in your area prior to beginning this work. Under certain circumstances, you may be required to install or replace with new equipment. To learn more about recent changes to the UST rule, visit Ecology’s website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/tanks.html>.

## OPERATOR TRAINING

Class A, B and C operator training is now required for operators of regulated UST facilities. Depending on an operator’s responsibilities, training must be completed prior to or within 60 days of taking on the duties of the operator class. Please visit Ecology’s operator training website for more information.

<http://www.ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/contamination-cleanup/Underground-Storage-Tank-operator-certification>

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIGNAGE

All UST facilities are required to display signs that provide emergency response information. Signs must be located at the site so they are easily visible to anyone dispensing or delivering fuel. Depending on the site’s layout, more than one sign may be required. For more information, please review the Ecology publication titled *Focus on Emergency Signage Required for UST Sites* found on the web at <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/contamination-cleanup/Underground-storage-tanks>.

**TANKS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGISTRATION**

The following tanks are not required to be registered as underground storage tanks. However, these tanks may be governed by other federal, state or local rules.

- Any tank which was taken out of operation on or before January 1, 1974.
- Tanks with a capacity of 110 gallons or less.
- Farm or residential tanks with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less, used to store motor fuel for personal or farm use only. The fuel must not be for resale or used for business purposes.
  - **Farm tanks** are those located on land used for production of crops or raising of animals, including fish.
  - **Residential tanks** are those located on property used primarily for dwelling purposes. This does not include dormitories, mobile home parks, apartment buildings, motels or similar facilities, unless the tank is only for the owner's personal use.
- Tanks which store heating oil used for space or process heating if the tank is located on the same premises where the heating oil is used. Heating oil is defined as No. 1,2,4, 5 and 6 technical grades of fuel oil (including navy special fuel oil and bunker C) and other fuels when used as a substitute for one of these fuel oils.
- Septic tanks.
- Pipeline facilities (including gathering lines) regulated under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 or the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, or intrastate pipeline facilities regulated under state laws.
- Surface impoundments, pits, ponds, or lagoons. These are usually natural topographic depressions, excavations or diked areas formed primarily of earthen materials, although they may have synthetic linings. They do not include injection wells.
- Storm water or waste water collection systems, including piping, pumps, conduits and other equipment used for collection and transport of storm water or domestic or industrial waste water to a treatment facility.

- Flow through process tanks. These are tanks that are an integral part of a production process through which product flows during the production operation. This does not include tanks used to store product before it is introduced into the production process or tanks used to store the finished products or by-products of the operation.
- Liquid traps or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations.
- Storage tanks situated on or above the floor of an underground area such as a basement, cellar, mineworking, drift, shaft or tunnel. This also includes tanks in underground vaults as long as they may be visually inspected to determine if they are leaking.
- Tanks that contain hazardous wastes. These are regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C.
- Equipment or machinery tanks such as hydraulic lifts or electrical equipment tanks.
- Emergency overflow tanks, catch basins or sumps.

**TO SPEAK WITH AN ECOLOGY UST INSPECTOR OR TO REQUEST A COPY OF THE UST REGULATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE REGIONAL OFFICE IN YOUR AREA.**

**Central: (509) 575-2490** (Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima counties)

**Eastern: (509) 329-3400** (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties)

**Headquarters: (360) 407-7170** - All Western WA Military & Federal Sites

**Northwest: (425) 649-7000** (Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties)

**Southwest: (360) 407-6300** (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties)

**UST Information on the Web**

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/tanks.html>