



Underground Storage Tank Abandonment and Removal

BP-35

Department of Building and Planning

Permits and inspections are required for the removal and/or abandonment of underground storage tanks to assure that the removal is performed in accordance with Spokane County standards and that tank removal will not endanger the health, safety, welfare or property of the general public.

How long will it take to obtain the processed permit?

If the application and plans are complete and the proposal clearly conforms to the codes and ordinances adopted by Spokane County, the permit may be issued within 2 to 3 days after review by County staff.

What information will be necessary to complete the application?

In order to submit an application for a permit, the following information should be provided:

- Parcel number or street address of the site.
- Site plan, on 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" paper indicating tank and structure locations.
- Capacity of the tank(s) and a description of the contents.
- Method of disposal

How much will the permit cost?

Fees for processing the permit and providing inspections for the project shall be charged at the rate specified in department fee schedules. Please refer to the current fee schedule or consult with department staff.

What inspections will be required?

An inspection is required prior to the removal or abandonment of the tank(s) to verify the purging of the tank and to advise the applicant as to what procedures will need to be followed to complete the project.

Additional inspections/testing may be required by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

What requirements must be met?

The following items are a guide to the procedures that should be used when removing or abandoning underground tanks:

- No cutting torch or other flame or spark producing equipment may be used until the tank has been completely purged or otherwise rendered safe.
- For a tank temporarily out of service, the fill line must be capped, and gauge opening and pump suction secured against tampering. The vent line must remain open.
- For abandoning underground tanks in place, all flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and from all connecting lines. The suction inlet gauge and vent lines shall be disconnected. The tank is then to be completely filled with an inert, solid material.

For removal of underground tanks, all flammable or combustible liquids must be removed from the tank and all connecting lines. Disconnect the suction inlet gauge and vent line, remove sections of connecting lines which are not to be used further and cap or plug inlets, outlets and leaks, if any. The tanks shall be purged and free from gas before removal from the premises.
- Tanks disposed of as junk must be retested for flammable vapors and if necessary rendered gas free prior to removal. After junking and before releasing to junk dealer, a sufficient number of holes and openings should be made in the tank to render it unfit for further use.

- ❑ Reuse of underground tanks - Used tanks which are to be reused for flammable or combustible liquid service shall meet all the requirements of the Spokane County Code and the International Fire Code Section 5704.2.11 for installation of underground tanks.
- ❑ A permit must be obtained prior to removing, abandoning, or disposing of any flammable or combustible liquid tank. Any tank not used for a period of ninety (90) days shall be safe guarded by the appropriate procedures above. Underground storage tanks which have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground in accordance with applicable procedures (International Fire Code Section 5704.2.13.1).
- ❑ Depending on the installation, additional requirements of the International Fire Code and/or Washington State Dept. of Ecology may be applied.

Other brochures that may be helpful:

- BP-4 Permit Fee Schedule
- BP-15 Propane Tanks
- BP-36 Underground Storage Tank Facts
- BP-51 Application Submittal Requirements for Building Permits
- BP-52 Permit Processing Time Savers

For more information or an appointment contact:
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