

Domestic Heating Oil Tank System Checkup

There are several factors that may affect the lifespan of your domestic heating oil storage system. They include, but are not limited to, the tank's type, age, location, outlet type, support base, line protection, and maintenance.

This following questionnaire will help you, the homeowner, to identify any potential problems with your oil storage system and determine your comfort level with the risks associated with them. Note that this assessment of potential risks does not guarantee that an incident will not occur in the future. It is merely a self-evaluation guide to assist you in your decision-making process. *Items indicated with an asterisk (*) apply to unprotected steel tanks only.*

21-Point Oil Tank System Checkup

Does the tank have a tag showing it has been constructed to meet national standards? Yes No

Is the tank free from visual signs of damage? Yes No

Do the vent and fill pipes exit your home in the case of an inside installation? Yes No

Is the fuel filter located inside the home? Yes No

Is the tank fully above ground (no partially buried components)? Yes No

Has fuel been transferred from an old tank to a new tank? Yes No

If you answered "No" to any of the first five questions and/or "Yes" to question six, the department considers your system to be at a higher risk and recommends that you have a heating service professional check your oil tank as soon as possible.

Is the tank shell thickness greater than 14 gauge steel? Yes No

Is the tank less than 15 years old? Yes No

Does the tank have a bottom feed outlet? Yes No

Is the tank installed inside? Yes No

Has the tank been installed vertically? Yes No

Does the oil line run on top of the basement floor? Yes No

Does the tank have a vent whistle or alarm? Yes No

Is the tank equipped with an outlet valve/line protector? Yes No

Is the tank equipped with an oil-level gauge protector? Yes No

Is the tank equipped with an anchoring device? Yes No

Is the tank painted with a corrosion resistant coating?* Yes No

Does the tank have an internal corrosion resistant coating?* Yes No

Do you routinely remove any water/sludge buildup in the tank?* Yes No

Is the system equipped with secondary containment or leak detection devices? Yes No

Do you have a maintenance service agreement with your oil provider? Yes No

As a general rule, each "No" you answered to the questions above increases the risk associated with your oil heating system. This assessment, coupled with the information throughout the guide, should provide you with a good basis for determining your comfort level with any potential problems associated with your oil tank system. If your evaluation raises your level of concern over some aspect of your system, the department recommends that you have a heating service professional conduct a more detailed examination.