



The Verterre Group Underground Storage Tank Removal

Many residential and commercial properties have underground storage tanks (USTs). The State of Vermont requires that out of use USTs, be emptied and removed from the ground. Additionally, many insurance companies deny coverage because of the presence of these tanks, causing real estate sales to be held up or lost. Below are frequently asked questions regarding the removal of USTs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *How much is the tank removal going to cost?*

To answer this question we will come to your property and visually inspect the location of the tank for accessibility purposes. We need to determine the size of the tank, how much product is in the tank and can the tank be removed by excavation or does it need to be closed in place. An in-place closure may occur if the tank is located near a foundation or under a slab.

2. *What does the State of Vermont require?*

The State of Vermont requires that out of use Underground Storage Tanks be removed. If you suspect that your tank is leaking it must be immediately emptied and removed. Underground Storage Tank removals must have a site assessment performed by a qualified consultant if the UST is associated with a commercial property or a residence where the tank is >1,100 gallons. A Closure assessment is recommended with all other size USTs as well; so documentation can be provided in the event of a property transaction.

3. *Are there any programs in place to help with these costs?*

The State of Vermont has a grant program that aids homeowners towards the removal, replacement, or upgrade of USTs. Additional information can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/ust/ustgrantapplication.htm>

4. *I know my tank has quite a bit of useable oil in it – what will happen to this oil?*

All usable oil will be removed from the tank prior to its closure. This can be transferred into an aboveground storage tank (AST) or properly transferred to another location for reuse.

5. *What happens to the tank?*

The area around the tank will need to be excavated. The excavation work can be performed by an excavating contractor or by hand depending upon location. We have reputable contractors that we work with on a regular basis who perform this type of work. We will then cut an access hole into the tank and clean out residual oily sludge and liquids. These wastes are placed in a 55-gallon drum for offsite disposal. The tank is then removed from the ground. Once the tank is excavated it is brought to a recycler to be used as scrap metal.

6. *What kind of documentation do I receive after the tank has been removed?*

Once the tank is out of the ground, we will then perform an assessment of the tank cavity soils to determine if any contamination is present. Soil samples taken from the cavity will be screened for contamination using a photoionization detector (PID). The tank cavity can then be backfilled to grade. The whole tank closure process is documented with photographs.

During this closure process we also collect data on any potential receptors. This means that we will locate and note the location of streams, leach fields, supply wells and drains. All of the data that we collect from the receptor analysis, tank cavity assessment and site photographs will then be used to document the closure process in a report. A copy of this report will be sent to you. For commercial USTs, residential USTs greater than 1,100 gallons or a UST where contamination has been found a copy of the report will be submitted to the State of Vermont.

7. *I think my tank may be leaking – how does that effect my property?*

The tank cavity assessment determines if there is contamination present within the surrounding soils. This could be from a leaky tank, a leak in the piping system or from past overfills. If contamination is observed during the assessment, the State of Vermont will require that a site investigation be performed to determine the extent and degree of the contamination on the property.

The State of Vermont has a Petroleum Clean-up Fund (PCF) to aid in the costs of this investigation provided no insurance coverage is available.

8. *How long is the process?*

We schedule tank closures as quickly as possible. Once scheduled, the tank removal is usually ½ to 1 day process. The UST report will be submitted within 2 weeks of the tank closure.



The removal of a UST has many components to it including:

- Notification to the State of Vermont about the UST removal;
- Removal of useable product from the tank;
- Excavation of the tank;
- Cutting and cleaning the tank;
- Disposal of waste associated with the cleaning of the tank;
- Assessment of the tank and tank area to determine if the tank leaked at any point;
- Written report documenting the closure with any additional recommendations.

The cost for performing the tank closure varies but we would be happy to provide you with a quote. It is Verterre's hope that this introduction will lead to consideration of our firm in meeting your upcoming environmental project needs. Feel free to call us at 802-654-8663. We can also be reached by email at info@vterre.com.