

Criteria for Removal of Underground Tanks

Please print in black ink only.

Scope

A Fire Department permit is required for placing tanks out-of-service or for removing tanks. Multiple tanks at a single location may be covered by a single permit. Removal operations may also be subject to Department of Ecology regulations and/or State Environment Policy Act (SEPA). Contact Planning Services for more information.

General

1. **Tanks may be excavated only after Fire Department inspection. Call 24 hours prior to excavation to arrange for an inspection.**
2. Submit a 8 1/2 x 11 site copy showing property lines, building foot print and dimensions to tank. Indicate size of tank(s) and destination. Fill out application and obtain Temporary Fire Department Permit.
3. Two fully charged 20 BC portable fire extinguishers are to be on the site within 50 feet of the operation.
4. Rope or ribbon barricades must be provided circling 10 feet from the operation or be enclosed in a fenced yard.
5. Approved "No Smoking" signs must be posted in readily visible locations.
6. Tank to be completely emptied of all flammable or combustible liquids prior to removal.
7. Any tank which has contained flammable or combustible liquids with a flash point of 200°F or less shall have the tank certified safe by a marine chemist or petroleum industry safety engineer regularly engaged in that business prior to excavation. No hot works allowed unless the tanks are certified safe.
8. A tank may be inerted by inserting into the tank one pound of dry ice (carbon dioxide) per 50 gallons liquid capacity of the tank. (For example, a 1,000-gallon tank would require 20 pounds dry ice.) This must be done prior to the use of heavy equipment for excavating.
 - a. Add a small amount of water and wait a minimum of 60 minutes for dry ice to vaporize. Vapors should begin to show at the fill-pipe at this time, which should be left open. Carbon Dioxide fire extinguishers or compressed gas are not to be used for inerting purposes as this produces static electricity, which may result in an explosion.
 - b. The openings should be sealed so the CO₂ gas will remain in the tank during transit. Tanks large enough to allow a person to enter to perform repair work should be marked on one side with spray paint, "NO AIR—INERT GAS—DO NOT ENTER."
9. Time limit the tank can remain on site is 15 days. Label "EMPTY with UN or NA Identification Code using contrasting spray paint. Call for a final inspection (253-856-4400) after all piping has been removed and before hole is filled.
10. There must be one person on the site who is licensed for removal by the Department of Ecology and certified for underground storage tank removal.

Kent Fire Prevention Information Sheets should not be used as substitutes for codes and regulations. Details of every project shall be reviewed for specific compliance with city codes, regulations and ordinances by Fire Prevention personnel.