

Caring for your oil tank...the MUST knows

If you have a domestic oil storage tank it's your responsibility to keep it safe. Oil leaks can cause damage to property and the environment. Prolonged exposure to vapours could cause harm to health. It could cost you thousands of pounds and take months or years to clean up an oil spillage and there is a risk of prosecutions and fines. So, why take the risk? To prevent problems from occurring make sure your whole system is regularly checked and serviced by professionally qualified engineers.

Top tips:

Check your tank – regularly

Are there any visible leaks or stains? Are there any cracks or damage to the tank, pipes, sight gauges or the support system? Is your tank old or in poor condition? If any of these apply, get advice from a qualified and experienced engineer as soon as possible. If a repair or replacement is required, do not attempt to do this yourself.

Give it room

Make sure your oil storage tank has space and cut back any plants which are growing near or over the tank, as they could damage it.

Be safe

Make sure that any deliveries of oil can be made safely and supervise them whenever possible. Do what you can to prevent vandalism or theft, but do not make any changes that would affect how your system works.

Be prepared

Check your insurance cover! Some policies will only cover you for the cost of replacing lost oil, not for any clean up. Most companies will not cover you at all if a leak is caused by lack of maintenance.

Know what to do in an emergency. Don't wait for a problem to occur! Read advice on our web page as mentioned below.

Keep a copy of emergency telephone numbers handy - or obtain a sticker for your tank from the Environment Agency by calling 03708 506 506.

In the event of a leak

Contact your insurance company **immediately** if a spill does occur. If your insurance policy does not cover you, you will need to employ your own accredited spill company.

How Colchester Borough Council can help

Get advice and read the Essex Contaminated Land Consortium's Domestic Heating Oil Care Guide at www.colchester.gov.uk/youroiltank.

We cannot clean up any oil that is spilt, or undertake any repairs for you but we may be able to help you find someone to clean up the oil to the correct standards.