King County

Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (Permitting)

35030 SE Douglas Street, Suite 210 • Snoqualmie, Washington 98065-9266 • 206-296-6600 • TTY Relay 711

Permitting Customer Information Bulletin #

44

Underground Fuel Tanks

• **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** •

Visit the Permitting Web site at
www.kingcounty.gov/permits
for more information

King County Permitting has created customer information bulletins to inform the general public about the effect of codes and regulations on their projects. These bulletins are not intended to be complete statements of all laws and rules and should not be used as substitutes for them. If conflicts and questions arise, current codes and regulations are final authority. Because the codes and regulations may be revised or amended at any time, consult King County staff to be sure you understand all requirements before beginning work. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project meets all requirements of applicable codes and regulations.

For alternate formats, call 206-296-6600.

Introduction

This bulletin outlines the requirements to obtain a permit to remove or abandon-in-place (decommission) residential or commercial-type underground fuel or storage tanks that are not in use.

What are the requirements for removing or decommissioning an underground fuel or storage tank from a residential site?

Residential fuel-oil tanks that have not been used for one year shall be removed from the ground or may be abandoned-in-place in a prescribed manner.

"Tanks and piping serving oil-burning equipment which have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground or abandoned in place in accordance with Section 3404.2.13.1.3 of the International Fire Code."

The following requirements must be met to to remove or decommission an underground tank:

A. A residential tank decommission contractor approved by the King County Marshal's Office must be used for tank removal or abandonment. Contact the Permitting Fire Marshal's Office at 206-296-6675 for a current list of approved contractors.
B. The contractor will supply King County with certification that the tank was properly removed or abandoned (decommissioned). The home owner should request a copy of the rinse receipt and King County Permitting Fire Marshal's tank certification from the tank decommission contractor. The rinse receipt acknowledges the tank has been cleaned per

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King County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require an accommodation to attend a meeting (two weeks' notice) or require this information in Braille, audiocassette, or large print, please call 206-296-6600 or TTY 206-296-7217.

the requirements of the Department of Ecology standards. The property owner should maintain copies of these documents for future reference.

C. A permit from King County Permitting is not required for residential tank removal or abandoned in-place (decommissioned) tanks.

What are the requirements for obtaining a commercial permit to remove an underground storage tank?

Any commercial-type underground tank used to store flammable or combustible liquid that has been out of service for one year shall be removed from the ground. Under certain conditions, however, a commercial-type tank may be abandoned-in-place. For clarification on whether a specific commercial tank must be removed, contact the King County Fire Marshal's Office at 206-296-6675.

"Underground tanks which have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground in accordance with Section 3404.2.13.1.3 of the International Fire Code and the site shall be restored in an approved manner."

Before removing any commercial tank, however, a permit must be secured from the King County Fire Marshal's Office, located within the Department of Permitting. To obtain a permit for removing a commercial-type tank, applicants must submit the following information at the Permitting Service Center and apply for a Fire Tank Permit. No appointment is required.

Permits may be applied for by either of the following methods:

1. Applications may be mailed to the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (Permitting) located at 35030 SE Douglas Street, Suite 210, Snoqualmie, Washington 98065-9266.

Applications may be dropped off at the Permitting Services Center at the address above. For driving directions, simply log onto the Permitting Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/permits. No appointment is necessary. To drop off an application, customers check in at the reception desk on the first floor and a representative from the Permitting Services Center will provide assistance.

Walk-in customer service hours are:

- General Information; Records Center; Over the counter Permits; Pre-submittal Services
  7:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday - Friday (except Wednesday)
  9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Wednesday
- Permit Issuance
  7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday (except Wednesday)
  9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Wednesday
  See the Permitting Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/permits.
- Cashier and Reception Desk
  7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

A. Cover sheet (three copies) showing:

1. The address of the property;
2. The name of the property owner; and
3. The Property Tax Account Number.

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B. Drawings (three copies) showing:

1. All property lines and buildings on the property;
2. The location of the tank(s) in proximity to buildings and/or property lines (indicate separation distances in feet);
3. The type of liquid the tanks held (fuel-oil, gasoline, etc.);
4. The size (in gallons) of the tank(s); and
5. A clear indication of actions to be taken regarding the tank(s) (specify removal of tank(s) or abandonment-in-place). A King County Permitting fire protection engineer may allow abandon-in-place with special approval.
6. Tanks shall be inerted (exhibiting no chemical activity or completely inactive) prior to removal and verified by a marine chemist;
7. The tank(s) shall be removed from unincorporated King County and shall not be cut on site;
8. Commercial-type underground tanks shall be removed from the ground except when special approval is given to abandon in place;
10. A final inspection will be conducted of all commercial tank removal or decommissioning activities; and
11. Please call 206-296-6615 to request and schedule a fire inspection.

C. Additional information required:

1. Identify the company/firm and the Washington State Contractor's Registration Number of the company/firm removing the tank(s) or abandoning the tank(s) in place.
   Issuance of a permit is limited to an individual or company holding a Washington State Contractor's Registration and who possess the knowledge, expertise, and necessary equipment for handling flammable or combustible liquid tanks.
2. If tanks are to be abandoned-in-place, indicate which material will be used to fill the tank:
   - Cement slurry mix; or
   - Approved foam agent.

Permit fees

The permit fees to remove underground tanks or abandon them in place are established by King County Ordinance [Title 27 of the King County Code (KCC)]. For information regarding current fees, contact staff at the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (Permitting) at 206-296-6600.

Note: All required fees are due at the time of permit application.

Other bulletins and telephone numbers that may be helpful

Bulletin 1	Building and Development Permit Telephone Numbers
Bulletin 6	Working with Contractors
Bulletin 7	Mobile Home Permits
Bulletin 9	Obtaining a Residential Building Permit
Bulletin 11	Street Addresses and Road Names
Bulletin 12	Residential Building Permit Process
Bulletin 21	Critical Areas Review
Bulletin 28	Clearing and Grading Permits

These and other Permitting bulletins are available via the Permitting Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/permits.

206-296-6600	Permitting Services Center
206-296-6797	Permitting Permit Application Appointment

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