

Education and Outreach for Source Protection

Handling and Storage of Heating Fuel

Audiences	Key Content
<p>Owners of a heating oil tank</p>	<p>General Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can protect your community’s drinking water sources from contamination. • Oil from a leaking tank can go underground and pollute groundwater, seriously damage your property and put people’s health and the environment at risk. • Oil spills and leaks can occur because of corrosion, overfilling, improper tank location, and improper installation and maintenance. • We need to protect our sources of drinking water from contamination – such as leaked oil – for our own health and that of our environment. Ontario’s <u>Clean Water Act</u> has identified fuel oil for heating as a potential danger to our lakes, rivers, and aquifers. Your municipality may ask you to take additional precautions related to your oil tank if an oil leak from your home could put a drinking water source at risk. • Confirm that you have already taken these legally required actions to protect your drinking water from home heating oil spills and leaks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you had a new tank installed as of January 2, 2012, it is double walled or bottomed. ○ Your heating oil tank system is inspected every year by a <u>Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA)</u> licensed oil burner technician. ○ All inspections and repairs are completed by contractors registered by the <u>TSSA</u>. ○ If you are a landowner, operator or user where fuel handling equipment is installed you report and take immediate corrective action in the event of an oil spill or leak.

- Underground fuel oil storage tanks not in use for two years are removed from the ground.
- Residential fuel tanks located in your basement or outside your home no longer in use are emptied of all contents and the fill and vent pipe are removed. For further information about tank removal requirements, please refer to the Technical Standards and Safety Authority Website.
- Report fuel spills to the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 (available 24 hours a day). The Spills Action Centre can also give you advice on how to clean up the spill or additional help if required.
- Contact your local municipality or conservation authority to find out about protecting your drinking water from oil leaks.

Current Legislative Requirements:

- The requirements for the safe storage and use of fuel oil in Ontario are provided in the Ontario Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment. It is important that all tanks adhere to all requirements in the code, code adoption document and the regulations. [Ontario Regulation 213/01 (Fuel Oil) and Ontario Regulation 223/01 (Codes and Standards Adopted by Reference) made under the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000.]
- Fuel oil tanks must be installed by a licensed contractor according to the requirements of the Fuel Oil Regulation and the Ontario Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment.

<p>TSSA licensed contractors, distributors, technicians, who service, install and maintain fuel tanks</p> <p>Training providers with fuel technician training programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that people who work in the fuel industry know where Ontario’s vital sources of drinking water are and do what they can to protect them. • When working with a home heating tank system it is preferable in order to protect drinking water that technicians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Install oil tanks away from floor drains or other openings in the floor to prevent oil spills from escaping. ○ Install drip trays under the oil tank and oil supply lines to catch leaks. • Fuel spills and leaks must be reported to the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 (available 24 hours a day).
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Note: The points listed in this document are not an exhaustive list of requirements and should in no way be interpreted as such. It is important that all tanks adhere to all requirements set out in the code, code adoption document and regulation.

RESOURCES

Using the resources below you can find information and best practices on handling and storage of fuel.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND SAFETY AUTHORITY (TSSA)	
Link	Technical Standards and Safety Authority website
Author	Technical Standards and Safety Authority
Date Published	N/A
Notes	Website about fuel safety, legislation, inspections, and links to other organizations.
Telephone	1-877-682-8772

BEST PRACTICES, BEST SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE OIL STORAGE	
Link	Best Practices, Best Solutions for Safe Oil Storage
Author	Canadian Oil Heat Association
Date Published	January 2013
Notes	YouTube video about safe oil storage. More information available at cleanerheat.ca .
HOME HEATING OIL STORAGE	
Link	Home Heating Oil Storage
Author	Conservation Ontario
Date Published	July 2012
Notes	Factsheet for homeowners about their home heating oil tanks.
ONTARIO INSTALLATION CODE FOR OIL-BURNING EQUIPMENT	
Link	Ontario Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment
Author	Canadian Standards Association
Date Published	2009
Notes	This code provides the minimum requirements for installing appliances, equipment and components.
ONTARIO REGULATION 213/01 (FUEL OIL)	
Link	Ontario Regulation 213/01 (Fuel Oil)
Author	Government of Ontario
Date Published	June 2001
Notes	Applies to appliances, equipment, components and accessories where fuel oil is to be used as a fuel.
ONTARIO REGULATION 223/01	
Link	Ontario Regulation 223/01
Author	Government of Ontario
Date Published	June 2001
Notes	Provides a list of adopted codes.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND SAFETY ACT, 2000	
Link	Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000
Author	Government of Ontario
Date Published	June 2001
Notes	Provides for the administration of technical standards. Applies to fuels, boilers and pressure vessels, and others.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Your local conservation authority.

For inquiries about this information sheet contact:

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