



Testing Requirements When Removing or Abandoning Storage Tanks

When storage tanks are being replaced or are no longer required, they must either be removed or properly abandoned in place. In accordance with permits required under the *Storage Tank Regulations* for these activities, the permittee must ensure that appropriate testing for contaminants is carried out at the time of tank removal or abandonment. Following is a description of the sampling and analysis required in each situation.

Tank Removal

When an underground storage tank (UST) is removed, the permittee must ensure that the following steps are undertaken:

1. After the tank has been removed, field testing should be used to ensure that any contaminated soil is excavated. Contaminated soil removed from the excavation must be temporarily stockpiled on site on a liner and covered with a tarp, or taken directly to a facility permitted to treat contaminated soil. A Relocation Permit must be obtained from the Environmental Programs Branch prior to moving any contaminated material off site.
2. Before backfilling the hole with clean material, the soil along the floor and four walls of the excavation must be sampled by a person trained to do so. At least one sample from the floor and each wall must be taken for each 10m length, and more samples may be required if the excavation is larger or if the level of contamination is high.
3. The samples taken from the excavation (as well as samples from any contaminated soil stockpiles) must be analyzed for petroleum hydrocarbon parameters by a laboratory accredited for the specific analyses by the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL). Contact the Environmental Programs Branch for a list of some CAEAL-accredited laboratories.
4. If the sample results indicate the excavation floor or walls may be contaminated at levels above those specified in the Yukon *Contaminated Sites Regulation* for the land use of the site, the permittee must submit the results to the Environmental Programs Branch within 30 days of sampling. If you are not sure whether your results indicate contamination or not, contact the Environmental Programs Branch for assistance.
5. If the sample results do not indicate the presence of contamination in the excavation floor or walls above the applicable standards in the *Contaminated Sites Regulation*, the permittee must submit the clean results to the Fire Marshal's Office within 30 days of sampling. Again, if you are not sure whether your results indicate the presence of contamination, contact the Environmental Programs Branch.
6. If water is encountered in the excavation when the tank is removed, contact the Environmental Programs Branch for details about the water sampling required.

Where aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) are to be removed, the permittee must ensure that the sampling and analysis described under "Tank Abandonment" below is undertaken in the vicinity of the tank and all piping leading to or from it, as well as in areas where there is visual or olfactory evidence of a spill or leak from the tank, fittings or piping.

Tank Abandonment

When underground tanks are to be abandoned in place, a leak test must be performed to gauge the integrity of the tank. If the tank fails the leak test the Fire Marshal's Office may require that it be removed, in which case the permittee will be required to follow the sampling requirements for Tank Removal listed above.

If an underground tank to be abandoned passes the leak test, the permittee must ensure that the following steps are undertaken:

1. Field testing must be conducted in the vicinity of all piping leading to or from the tank, particularly around the fill pipe, and as directed by the Environmental Programs Branch.
2. In areas where field testing indicates potential contamination over the applicable standards, or where there is visual or olfactory evidence of a spill or leak from the fittings or piping, soil samples must be collected for laboratory analysis.
3. The soil samples must be analyzed for petroleum hydrocarbon parameters by a laboratory accredited for the specific analyses by the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL). Contact the Environmental Programs Branch for a list of some CAEAL-accredited laboratories.
4. If the sample results indicate the presence of contamination at levels above those specified in the Yukon *Contaminated Sites Regulation* for that land use, the permittee must submit the results to the Environmental Programs Branch within 30 days of sampling. If you are not sure whether your results indicate contamination or not, contact the Environmental Programs Branch for assistance.
5. If either the field testing or the sample results do not indicate the presence of contamination above the applicable standards in the *Contaminated Sites Regulation*, the permittee must submit the clean results to the Fire Marshal's Office within 30 days of sampling. Again, if you are not sure whether your results indicate the presence of contamination, contact the Environmental Programs Branch.

Other Topics

Fact Sheets are also available on the following topics:

- Storage Tank Regulations
- Contaminated Sites Regulation
- Spills Regulation
- Special Waste Regulations
- Contaminant Testing

For permit application forms or more information on the Storage Tank Regulations, please contact:

Fire Marshal's Office, Protective Services Branch (C-20)	
Department of Community Services	Phone: (867) 667-5230
Box 2703	Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5230
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6	Fax: (867) 667-3165

For information on the required sampling and analysis, please contact:

Environmental Programs Branch (V-8)	
Department of Environment	Phone: (867) 667-5683
Box 2703	Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5683
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6	Fax: (867) 393-6205
	email: envprot@gov.yk.ca

Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> under the "Standards & Approvals" section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).

