

HOMEOWNER OIL STORAGE TANK REMOVAL CLEANUP GUIDANCE

SOIL SHOULD NOT BE EXCAVATED FOR DISPOSAL UNLESS:

- A. There is obvious (floating oil or saturated soil) petroleum contamination or
- B. Laboratory data of soil samples show contamination over CP-51 standards (total petroleum hydrocarbon and field tests are not sufficient)

IN GENERAL, A HOMEOWNER IS BETTER OFF HAVING A TANK REMOVED FROM THE GROUND TO REDUCE FUTURE LIABILITY.

A spill may be closed when NYSDEC gets an acceptable report of activities performed.

The following guidance is offered from the Department in regards to cleanup requirements. The Department strongly recommends the use of a Qualified Environmental Professional for the cleanup.

1. Field screening measurements (meter readings) are to be used as a screening tool only. Field measurements are not to be used in lieu of sampling to determine cleanup end points.
 - a. Field screen excavation.
 - b. Should an area of elevated reading be found, excavate deeper or wider in this area to determine if field readings increase or decrease (an attempt to delineate).
 - c. Then collect sample of highest field screening soil.
 - d. Have lab data results of this sample along with field screening readings forwarded to DEC for review and comment.
2. Soil and groundwater laboratory analysis (EPA Method 8260/8270) is strongly recommended to determine if cleanup is required by the Department. The Department will compare the laboratory results to its applicable Soil Cleanup Guidance Values and Groundwater Standards.
3. Should free phase petroleum free product be identified, removal of the petroleum product is required. If groundwater is present and its contamination is suspected, laboratory analysis of the groundwater is strongly recommended prior to any groundwater cleanup.
4. An acceptable report of cleanup activity needs to be submitted to the Department upon completion of cleanup activity. This report shall include the following:
 - a. Narrative of work conducted
 - b. Site map and pictures depicting work area and sample locations along with location of nearby sensitive receptors (drinking water well, stream, lake, etc.)
 - c. Copy of all laboratory analysis performed
 - d. Summary table of laboratory data
 - e. Copy of disposal receipts for all tanks, solid and liquid waste disposed

Additional guidance from the Department can be found at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/32263.html>, Underground Heating Oil Tanks: A Homeowner's Guide

Should you have any questions or concerns in regards to this petroleum spill incident, please contact the Region 3 Oil Spill Dispatch Desk at 845-256-3121 between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30 pm.