

Focus on UST Spills or Releases



Toxics Cleanup Program

May 2016

When do underground storage tank (UST) spills and releases need to be reported to Ecology?

All spills and leaks must be reported to Ecology unless they are of a very small amount and do not come into contact with soil, groundwater, storm drain, or surface water.

Which actions need to be taken if there is a spill or release of product at my UST site?

If there is a leak or spill of fuel or a hazardous substance, take these steps to reduce risks to people, your property, and the environment.

Immediately, report to an Ecology regional office (phone numbers on back) when product at the UST site or in the surrounding area comes into contact with soil, groundwater, storm drain, or surface water.

- Call 911 immediately, if there is an immediate danger to the public or first responders (for example: fire).
- If it is safe to do so, restrict access to the affected area.
- If it is safe to do so, absorb, contain and clean up any spilled product and dispose of it properly.

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-7170 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html>. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Call within 24 hours if you suspect your UST system is leaking. The following conditions may be a sign there is an active leak.

- Product is discovered at the UST site or in the surrounding area.
- The equipment is not operating properly (i.e. dispenser problem, sudden loss of fuel, unexplained water in tank). If the equipment is found to be defective (but not leaking), it does not need to be reported, but must be repaired as quickly as possible.
- The leak detection method shows a release may have occurred (such as a failed leak test). If a false alarm is confirmed or monitor device is found to be defective, it does not need to be reported, but must be repaired as quickly as possible.

Investigate within seven days (or another reasonable time period approved by Ecology) if you believe your UST system is leaking by using one of these methods.

- Have an International Code Council (ICC)-certified Tightness Tester test any portion of the UST system that is suspected of leaking (i.e. tanks, lines or other equipment) to find the location of the leak or to determine if there is a leak to the environment. Send testing results to Ecology.
- Have an ICC-certified Site Assessor conduct a Site Check if tightness testing fails or when environmental contamination is the basis for suspecting a release. Send a completed *Site Check/Site Assessment Checklist* to Ecology.

If a Site Check confirms the environment has been contaminated, you must:

- Report the leak or spill to your regional Ecology office within 24 hours of receiving the Site Check sampling results.
- Remove all product from the UST system identified as leaking to prevent further releases.
- Hire an environmental contractor to begin any cleanup required under the Model Toxics Control Act WAC 173-340.

To report a spill or leak or for further questions, contact your regional office below and ask for a tank inspector to assist you.



Regional Office	Counties Served
Central (509) 575-2490	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima
Eastern (509) 329-3400	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman
HQ (360) 407-7170	Federal facilities in western Washington
Northwest (425) 649-7000	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom
Southwest (360) 407-6300	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum