

Leaving Oil Tanks When Switching to Heat Pumps



NYS Clean Heat

Deciding whether to safely disable or remove an oil tank on-site that is put out of use after switching to a heat pump system is an important choice for a building owner. The New York State (NYS) Clean Heat Statewide Heat Pump Program (Program) recommends removing the oil tank to eliminate any safety risks and potential environmental hazards. This guide offers insights to help with this decision. It outlines the safety considerations and regulatory requirements of keeping an oil tank versus the regulatory requirements of removing an oil tank.



Safety and Environmental Concerns of Keeping an Oil Tank that is Put Out of Use:

- Oil Tank deteriorates over time, leading to the risk of leaks or even structural failure.
- Becomes breeding ground for pests.
- Serves as potential fire hazard if not properly maintained.
- Runs the risk of soil and groundwater contamination due to leaks or spills, posing health hazards to residents.

Requirements of Removing an Oil Tank that is Put Out of Use:

For *New York City (NYC)* residents, oil tanks that are put out of use after a switch to a heat pump system must be disabled in place or removed in accordance with the NYC Fire Code.¹

For *NYS* residents outside of NYC, in compliance with the NYS Fire Code², the following actions are required: Oil tanks must be secured against tampering when removed from service. Oil tanks unused for 90 days or more must be either removed or emptied of flammable liquids, all piping must be capped or plugged, and vent lines shall remain open and be maintained. Oil tanks unused for over a year must be disabled in place or removed.

To learn more about oil tank disablement in place or removal requirements for building owners, please contact the following helplines:

New York City Residents	Residents outside of New York City
Department of Buildings (212) 639-9675	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (518) 402-9453

Oil Tank Removal Guidance Customer Attestation

I, the building owner, certify that I have read and understood the guidance provided regarding the decision to safely disable or remove an oil tank after transitioning to a heat pump system. I affirm that the decisions and actions I will take regarding the oil tank will be in compliance with all safety considerations, environmental concerns, and regulatory requirements, as outlined in this guidance. I _____ acknowledge my responsibility to dispose of the oil tank in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and municipal laws, regulations, and codes.

Customer: <small>(please print)</small>	Date:
Signature:	

¹ 2022 Fire Code of New York City: Sections (5704.13.2) for above-ground tanks (5704.2.13.1) for underground tanks

² 2020 Fire Code of New York State: Sections (5704.2.13.2) for above-ground tanks and (5704.2.13.1) for underground tanks