

# Leaving or Removing Oil Tank 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 safely disabled in place or removed in accordance with the NYC Fire Code.<sup>1</sup> For NYS residents outside of NYC, oil tanks that have been out of service for a period of **one year** shall be safely disabled in place or removed in accordance with the NYS Fire Code.<sup>2</sup> The building owner assumes responsibility for removal and disposal of the oil tank and any remaining oil in accordance with all applicable federal, state, municipal laws, regulations, and codes in connection with oil tank disablement in place or removal. These requirements may differ depending on location. 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<br>(212) 639-9675 | NYS Department of Environmental Conservation<br>(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, if applicable, in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and municipal laws, regulations, and codes.

Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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