

PA STATE  
CERTIFIED INSTALLER'S  
NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PA STATE POLICE  
FIRE MARSHALL  
APPROVAL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ CITY OF ALLENTOWN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DATE ISSUED \_\_\_\_\_  
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

TANK PERMIT

UNDERGROUND, ABOVE GROUND, ABANDONED FLAMMABLE LIQUID TANKS

Application is hereby made for a permit to install, erect, or alter flammable liquid tanks and to use the premises for the purposes described herewith. The information which follows is made part of this application by the undersigned. It is understood and agreed by this applicant that any error, misstatement or misrepresentation of material fact either with or without intention on the part of this applicant, such as might or would operate to cause a refusal of this application, or any change in the location, size or use of flammable liquid tanks or land made subsequent to the issuance of this permit, without approval of the Bureau of Fire Prevention Office, shall constitute sufficient ground for the revocation of this permit, and/or prosecution, or both.

A. LOCATION, OWNERSHIP AND PRESENT USE OF PROPERTY: INSTALLATION \_\_\_\_\_ REMOVAL \_\_\_\_\_ OF TANK \_\_\_\_\_

1. STREET AND NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_
2. DEED OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ WARD \_\_\_\_\_
3. OWNER'S ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
4. PRESENT TENANT \_\_\_\_\_
5. PRESENT USE OF STRUCTURE & NO. OF FAMILIES \_\_\_\_\_ DOES TENANT HAVE OWNER'S CONSENT FOR PROPOSED WORK? \_\_\_\_\_
6. PRESENT BUILDING, DESCRIBE \_\_\_\_\_
7. PRESENT USE OF LAND \_\_\_\_\_
8. FIRE DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_
9. ZONING DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

B. PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE AND/OR LAND; AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

1. PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE & NO. OF FAMILIES \_\_\_\_\_
2. PROPOSED USE OF LAND \_\_\_\_\_
3. TYPE OF STRUCTURE: NEW STRUCTURE  EXISTING STRUCTURE  ADDITION   
CHANGE OF USE  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
4. TANK LOCATION: ABOVE GROUND  BELOW GROUND  EXTERIOR  INTERIOR
5. LIQUID TO BE HANDLED \_\_\_\_\_
6. TANK CAPACITY, NUMBER, SIZE: 275 GAL.  500 GAL.  1000 GAL.  2000 GAL.   
3000 GAL.  4000 GAL.  5000 GAL.  6000 GAL.  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
MATERIAL \_\_\_\_\_ GAUGE \_\_\_\_\_ DIAMETER \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH: Ft. \_\_\_\_\_ In. \_\_\_\_\_
7. FIRE SAFETY \_\_\_\_\_

(NUMBER OF CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS PROVIDED ON PREMISES, TYPE, RATING)

- C. APPLICANT: BUSINESS PRIVILEGE LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE ESTIMATE: \_\_\_\_\_
1. NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_
  2. ADDRESS OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_
  3. OWNER, LESSEE, OR AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR OWNER OF SUBJECT PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_
  4. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

D. APPROVAL AND DATES OF ACTION TAKEN:

1. APPLICATION APPROVED YES  NO  DATE \_\_\_\_\_ INSPECTOR \_\_\_\_\_
2. REASON FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: PLANS APPROVED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED HEREWITH, TO BE MADE PART THEREOF. THIS PERMIT IS VOID WITHIN (6) MONTHS OF DATE OF ISSUE UNLESS WORK HAS STARTED.

## TANK REMOVAL REGULATIONS

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**SCOPE:** All **tanks abandoned or unused** for a period of one (1) year must be removed from the premises in an approved manner or otherwise safeguarded. **Leaking tanks must be removed, repaired, or otherwise mitigated immediately.**

1. Obtain a **permit** from Building Standards and Safety on the fourth floor of City Hall. In cases where the tank is a State-regulated tank, also notify the **DEP**. The removal of a State-regulated tank requires a State licensed contractor. **Contact "PA One Call"** prior to any excavating (1-800-242-1776 OR 811). The PA One Call website is [www.paonecall.org](http://www.paonecall.org). The State does not regulate home heating oil tanks, but does get involved if there is a leak.
2. Contact the **Fire Prevention Office** if the tank cannot be removed from the property and it is proposed to fill the tank in place or otherwise safeguard the tank. **Permission** must be granted from the **Fire Prevention Office** before any tank is filled in place or otherwise safeguarded. **Leaking tanks** may not be filled in place.
3. **Tanks** to be filled in place must be completely cleaned of all fuels, residues, water, and other substances. The tank may then be filled with an inert, non-shrinking and non-settling material such as concrete. Any tank that is under a foundation or driving surface must be filled with due care so that future tank decay will not cause a structural problem or collapse.
4. **Tanks** to be removed must be rendered safe before being pulled from the ground. Removal of tanks with flammable liquids or vapors remaining inside is **not permitted**.
5. **Residential heating oil tanks of 1,100 gallons or less may be cleaned and permanently capped or plugged below grade. Filling or removal is not required but strongly recommended. The tank may eventually collapse and cause a problem.**
6. It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure that an **environmental hazard** does not exist. The **DEP** requires soil samples for regulated tanks. The Fire Prevention Office will inspect the excavation and/or tank for visible contamination at all tank removal sites, but this does not guarantee a clean environment.
7. **Aboveground tanks** may be removed or otherwise safeguarded. Contact the **Fire Prevention Office** for guidance. There are lesser standards for aboveground tanks.
8. All basic safety rules, OSHA regulations, and ignition control safety rules must be followed at tank operations.
9. Notify the **Fire Prevention Office** when the tank will be removed or filled. Coordinate the removal or filling so that a **Fire Marshal** may attend. This will protect the property owner with an official **City Record**.

Any questions are to be directed to Assistant Chief Lee T. Laubach Jr, 610-437-7758. Allentown Fire Department, 435 Hamilton St, Room 425, Allentown PA 18101. **DEP** contact number is 1-570-826-2511.

# TANK INSTALLATION REGULATIONS

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**SCOPE:** This document details information about the installation of storage tanks for flammable and combustible liquids. Lesser regulations are in effect for fuel oil tanks that contain 660 gallons or less as explained below.

## Basic permit information

Obtain a permit from the City Building Inspection office, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall (610-437-7592).

**Important:** You must also obtain approval from the state. Fuel oil tanks connected to an approved appliance may be exempt if under 3000 gallons. Contact the State Flammable and Combustible Liquids Section at (717) 705-2787. DEP Phone is 1-570-826-2511 for further information.

**Emergency venting is required for all aboveground tanks and secondary containment tanks. Residential fuel oil tanks may be permitted to vent using the required normal tank vent.**

### A. Inside aboveground fuel oil storage under 660 gallons for oil burners

1. Must be an approved listed tank meeting UL 80, UL 142, or UL 2258. ASME boiler and pressure vessels per Section VIII, Division 1 or 2 are acceptable.
2. Must be supported with rigid, non-combustible supports to prevent shifting, settling, or lifting.
3. Minimum 1.25 inch vent pipe required to the outside. This will serve as the emergency vent.
4. Tank must be five (5) feet horizontally from any heat source (this generally refers to the oil burner).
5. Shut-off valve required at tank.
6. Tank must be in the lowest story with some exceptions (see 2001NFPA 31 - 7.5.4).
7. Piping must be protected.
8. Gauge required to indicate fuel amount.
9. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) for final inspection.

### B. Inside aboveground fuel oil storage above 660 gallons for oil burners

1. Must meet high hazard building requirements. Fire suppression and supervision are required.
2. Fire separations required per the Building Code.
3. Liquid-tight sill required to contain all product plus 10% and sprinkler water for 20 minutes. *Exception:* double-wall tanks.
4. A leakage alarm is required inside double-wall tanks. A leakage alarm is required under single-wall tanks. Alarms must be supervised.

5. Overflow protection required.
6. Physical damage protection required.
7. Approved mechanical ventilation required.
8. Tanks larger than 3,000 gallons to be installed in an approved vault per the Fire Code.
9. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) for approval before any work is done.

**C. Inside aboveground tanks (non Class III B type) not connected to an oil burner**

1. Minimum requirements include automatic fire suppression, explosion venting, secondary containment, ventilation systems, fire separation, and fire and vapor alarms. See section B above.
2. Requirements are very restrictive. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758).

**D. Outside aboveground fuel oil storage under 660 gallons for oil burners**

1. Must be an approved listed tank meeting UL 80, UL 142, or UL 2258. ASME boiler and pressure vessels per Section VIII, Division 1 or 2 are acceptable.
2. Must be supported with rigid, non-combustible supports to prevent shifting, settling, or lifting.
3. Minimum 1.25 inch vent pipe required. This will serve as the emergency vent.
4. Shut-off valve required at tank.
5. Gauge required to indicate fuel amount.
6. Tank may be located next to the building.
7. Tank location (275 gallon or less) must be at least five (5) feet from any adjoining property line.
8. Tank location (276-660 gallons) must be at least ten (10) feet from any adjoining property line.
9. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) for final inspection.

**E. Outside aboveground fuel oil storage above 660 gallons for oil burners**

1. Tank must be listed by UL or API for such service.
2. Tank size limit to be determined by the Fire Marshal.
3. An approved liquid level gauge is required.
4. For tank location clearances, see NFPA 30.
5. Approved spill control must be provided. Diking or remote impounding is required. Tanks not exceeding 12,000 gallons may be exempt if they meet specific conditions in NFPA 30.
6. Bollards to be required as deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal.
7. Contact the Fire Prevention (610-437-7758) before all air tests and for final inspection.

**F. Outside aboveground storage not connected to an approved oil burner and not used for fueling purposes** (*Examples: tanks connected to a generator; bulk fuel storage*)

1. Must be an approved tank.
2. Must be located per NFPA 30 with respect to lot lines and buildings.
3. Spill control is required by means of remote impounding or approved diking. See NFPA 30.
  - a. Not required for Class III B liquids.
  - b. Secondary containment-type tanks that do not exceed 12,000 gallons may also be exempt if they meet conditions listed in NFPA 30.
4. Emergency venting required.
5. Fire protection will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Fire Marshal.
6. Protective bollards required at minimum four-foot intervals. Must be four-inch concrete-filled steel pipe set in 42 inches of concrete. Concrete diameter minimum 15 inches. Bollards not required for vaults but highly recommended.
7. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) before all air tests and for final inspection.

**G. Outside aboveground storage used for fueling purposes (vehicles, lawnmowers, etc.)**

1. Non-public facilities only.
2. Tank size limit to be determined by the Fire Marshal
3. Maximum three (3) tanks per property.
4. All connections and openings must be through top of tank.
5. Tank must meet NFPA 2085 (able to withstand a two-hour flammable liquid pool fire) or be in an approved vault per the Fire Code.
6. Protective bollards required at minimum four-foot intervals. Must be four-inch concrete-filled steel pipe set in 42 inches of concrete. Concrete diameter minimum 15 inches. Bollards not required for vaults but highly recommended.
7. Fence required by NFPA 30 A must be six (6) feet high and be at least ten (10) feet from the tank. *Exceptions: secure sites; vaulted tanks; tanks under 1000 gallons.*
8. Clear space of three (3) feet required around the tank.
9. Clearances required to lot lines and buildings per NFPA 30.
10. An approved fire extinguisher must be installed at all fueling installations.
11. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) before all air tests and for final inspection.

**H. Inside or outside aboveground storage for Class III B liquids, motor oil, or waste oil**

1. Liquid level gauge required.
2. Gravity flow anti-siphon equipment required if the installation has a dispensing device.
3. Emergency venting required.
4. Tank must be listed for aboveground use.
5. Maximum tank size: Class III B liquids - 1000 gallons.
6. Maximum tank size: Waste oil - 500 gallons.
7. Tank size may be increased with approved secondary containment.
8. All openings to be on top of the tank.
9. Existing waste oil tanks that do not constitute a hazard may continue.
10. All tanks must be well-supported.
11. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) before all air tests and for final inspection.

**I. Underground tanks**

1. Tanks must be minimum of three (3) feet from any lot line, and the nearest wall of a pit, basement, or cellar.
2. Hold-down pads and straps are required in flood and high water table zones. An approved clearance is required between the tank and the pad.
3. Bedding below tank must be an approved type and be a minimum of six (6) inches thick.
4. The tank must be surrounded by approved backfill at least six (6) inches in depth.
5. Cover for traffic areas: use a minimum of 18 inches of backfill with 6 inches of reinforced concrete or 30 inches of backfill and 6 inches of asphaltic concrete.
6. Cover for non-traffic areas: use 6 inches of backfill and 12 inches of earth or 12 inches of backfill and 4 inches of reinforced concrete.
7. Corrosion protection is required except for non-metallic tanks and piping systems.
8. Approved leak detection is required.
9. An approved air test is usually required by the manufacturer before placing the tank into the ground.
10. Contact the Fire Prevention office (610-437-7758) before the following required tests are performed:
  - a. Air test or other approved test after tank is installed in ground and back-filled. Tank must be empty! Gauges must have maximum reading of 15 psi.
  - b. Air tests on piping.
  - c. Final approval at completion of project.