



# Decommissioning Underground Fuel Tanks

## Overview

This handout outlines the requirements to obtain a permit to remove or abandon-in-place (decommission) underground fuel or storage tanks that are no longer in use. Underground tanks used to store flammable or combustible liquid that have been out of service for one year shall be decommissioned as required by State and Local codes. Under certain conditions, a commercial-type tank may be abandoned-in-place.

Apply On-Line at [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://www.kingcounty.gov/permits)

Select: King County | Fire | (Project Type)  
| Decommission | Storage Tanks



## Residential Properties<sup>1</sup>

Certification for Removal or Abandonment-in-Place of a residential underground fuel storage tank requires a permit issued by the Department of Local Services, Permitting Division (Permitting). The following requirements must be met:

- A. A certified contractor approved by the King County Fire Marshal must be used for tank(s) removal or abandonment. Permitting list of approved [Certified Residential Oil Tank Decommissioning Contractors](#)
- B. The permit applicant certifies that the tank(s) has been properly removed or abandoned (decommissioned).
- C. The contractor will provide the homeowner with a copy of the King County permit, a copy of the rinse receipt and a site plan. The rinse receipt acknowledges the tank has been cleaned and disposed of per the requirements of the Department of Ecology standards.
- D. No inspection is required.
- E. No fee will be charged for this permit.

## Multi-Family and Commercial Properties

Removal or abandoned-in-place of a commercial underground fuel storage tank **requires a permit** issued by the Permitting Division. The following requirements must be met:

- A. A Site Plan is required at application submittal for Commercial and Multi-Family permits. Site Plan requirements:
  - a. All property lines and buildings on the property clearly shown;

<sup>1</sup> Residential property includes single family, duplexes, and townhomes (up to four units).

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- b. The location of the tank(s) in proximity to buildings and/or property lines (indicate separation distances in feet);
- c. The type of liquid the tank(s) held (fuel-oil, gasoline, etc.)
- d. The size (in gallons) of the tank(s)
- e. Indicate removal or abandonment in-place

B. Fee required, see [Multi-family or Commercial – Plan review and inspection fees](#)

C. A Permitting Division inspection is required upon issuance of permit.

D. The permit applicant certifies that the tank(s) will be properly removed or abandoned (decommissioned). The contractor will provide the property owner with a copy of the King County permit record, a copy of the rinse receipt, and a site plan. The rinse receipt acknowledges the tank has been cleaned and disposed of properly per the requirements of the Department of Ecology standards.

Additional information or for clarification on whether a specific commercial tank must be removed, contact the Permitting Division at 206-296-6600 or by email, [PermitQuestions@kingcounty.gov](mailto:PermitQuestions@kingcounty.gov).

### Obtaining a permit to remove or abandon an Underground Fuel Storage Tank

Go to [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com) The permit type selections are:

*Jurisdiction: King County*

*Application Type: Fire*

*Project Type: (Choose Type)*

*Activity Type: Decommission*

*Scope of Work: Storage Tanks*

**Apply On-Line** at [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

**Select:** King County | Fire | (Project Type) | Decommission | Storage Tanks



If you have questions or would like to inquire about alternatives, please email [PermitQuestions@kingcounty.gov](mailto:PermitQuestions@kingcounty.gov).

### Additional Resources

King County [Department of Local Services, Permitting Division](#)

[Permit Fees](#)

[On-line Permit Status, Invoice Payment and Inspection Scheduling](#)

[King County Green Building Handbook](#)

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste, [What Do I Do With?](#)

Public Health – Seattle & King County

[Solid Waste Disposal in King County; Waste Characterization Program \(Fuel Tanks\)](#)

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Washington State [Department of Ecology](#)

[Underground Tank Closures](#)

[Pollution Liability Insurance Agency](#) (PLIA) – Home Heating Oil Tank Insurance and Technical Support Services

