

## General Information Spills and Remediation

- Domestic oil tank spills contaminate soil and ground water.
- Most oil tank spills are a result of a pinhole leak, which can leak 1000 liters within eight hours.
- One liter of oil can contaminate one million liters of drinking water.
- Oil spill remediation costs range from \$5,000 to \$150,000 and up.
- Removal of large amounts of soil for decontamination as well as replacement of house basement and foundation could be required in more serious situations.
- If surface or ground water is contaminated, remediation costs escalate.
- The homeowner is responsible for reporting and cleaning up spills.
- Insurance may respond to genuine accidental situations. It will not respond to clean up of accumulative or past pollution problems.

**To Report A Spill, contact:  
Saskatchewan Spill Report Centre  
24 Hours  
1-800-667-7525**

**For further information regarding the installation of oil-burning equipment and accessories, consult the CAN/CSA- B139-00 Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment**

## Oil Tank Information

When buying a tank, some considerations are:

- Tanks are available with wastewater valves to drain off water from the bottom.
- Plastic liners are also available, which help reduce internal corrosion.
- Tanks constructed of thicker metal will often last longer than those constructed with thinner material.
- Some tanks prevent accumulation of water in the bottom of the tank by drawing the condensation off as the oil enters the furnace.

*DO NOT BUY OR  
INSTALL USED TANKS*



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# Heating Fuel Oil Storage

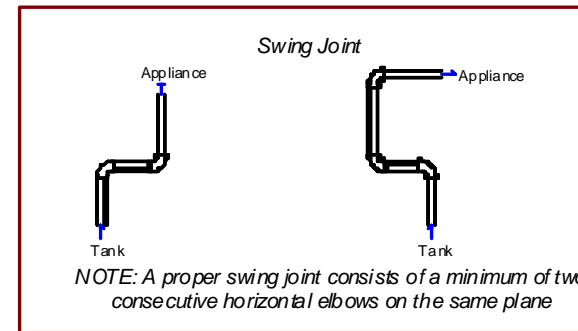
**Mennonite Mutual Fire  
Insurance Company  
of Saskatchewan**



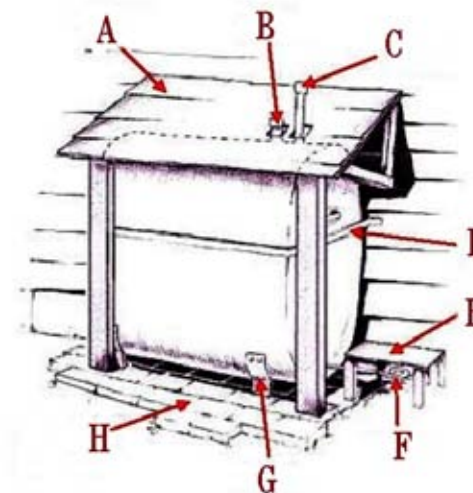
## Oil Tank Installations

- All oil burning equipment, including the appliance, accessory, component equipment and tank must be certified and installed in accordance with manufacturer's certified instructions and with CAN/CSA B-139-04.
- Personnel performing installation, operation and maintenance work must be trained to do so.
- Install your tank so it is suitably protected from damage that can occur as a result of the location of the tank. For example barriers to protect from vehicular traffic or a roof to protect from snow and ice (see A on diagram).
- All piping and tubing should be metal as other materials, such as plastic or rubber are not acceptable. Flexible metal hose may be used where applicable and must be installed in strict accordance with the certification (see F on diagram).
- Above ground metal tanks must be designed and approved to the appropriate standard.
- Install your tank a minimum of 15 meters (50 ft.) away from any well or watercourse.
- Install the tank using the appropriate support (see G on diagram), a minimum of 100mm. (4") above floor or ground level, on a solid, level, non-combustible footing, such as a concrete pad or patio blocks that prevent uneven settling (see H on diagram).
- Pressure treated wood may be used provided it is below grade, in contact with the ground (top surface may be exposed), and the preservative must be non-combustible (see H on diagram).
- A tank that may be exposed to high winds must be secured against toppling (see D on diagram).

- Tanks installed in a building must be of such size that it can be installed and removed as a unit. It must be located in the lowest story of the house and capacity must not exceed 5000 liters. If not installed in the lowest floor, it must have a second containment having capacity at least equal to the largest tank.
- An inside tank must be located so that the oil in the tank does not exceed 38°C and the horizontal distance from the tank to any fuel-fired appliance must not be less than 0.6m (2'). This distance may be reduced if the appliance is shielded with a permanent shield that has at least a 1 h fire-resistance rating and is of sufficient length and height to hide the tank completely from any fuel-fired appliance.
- Tanks must not block any exit from a building.
- The fill opening must be provided with a tight metal or a certified cover to prevent tampering (see B on diagram).
- The vent pipe must terminate 6" above the entry to the fill pipe (see C on diagram).
- If the tank is next to a building, the vent pipe must terminate sufficiently high to clear local typical ground snow accumulation and at least 2' from any opening to the building like a door, vent or opening window (see C on diagram).
- Fill or vent pipes must be steel or galvanized metal. Galvanized shall not be used in any areas where it would be exposed to heat or preheated fuel oil.
- Piping/tubing must be well supported and protected from physical damage. (see E on diagram).
- Piping and tubing should be installed as directly as possible and provisions must be made for expansion, contraction, jarring, vibration and settling. This can be accomplished by including a swing joint in the installation where rigid piping is used. (see F on diagram).



- Underground piping or tubing must be installed with secondary containment as well as a means of detecting a leak from the primary pipe or tube.
- Underground piping or tubing shall not pass below a foundation wall or under a building.
- Oil-burning appliances and ancillary equipment should be maintained annually.
- Tanks must be installed in such a way that allows adequate air circulation on all sides of the tank, minimizing the potential for deterioration due to corrosion caused by condensation.
- Oil from your old tank should not be transferred to your new tank as it could contaminate your new tank with water and sludge.



## Oil Tank Maintenance

- It is your responsibility to ensure the integrity of your tank and installation.
- Inspect your oil tank regularly for any signs of internal corrosion coming through which would compromise the integrity of the tank.
- Inspect your tank, footing and supports for any signs of shifting.
- Your fuel oil distributor can do a visual inspection of your tank if you are unsure of age or condition.
- Keep your tank, lines and connections clear of snow and ice.
- Clear your roof of snow and ice that could fall and damage your tank and/or connections.
- Contact your insurance broker or agent regarding oil spill coverage. After a spill it may be too late!



**Protect your building and the people around it!**