

New Owner of a UST System Information

This is a short summary of information that you as a new owner need to know to successfully operate underground storage tanks in Montana.

We can help you as the new owner with quite a few things concerning your underground storage tanks (UST's).

First, you need to fill out the [Notification for Underground Storage Tank form](#) to let us know that you are indeed the owner. This must be done within 30 days of purchasing property with underground tanks on it.

You also need to contact the Department of Revenue's eStop program at <https://svc.mt.gov/dor/eStopPortal/Default.aspx>. They have additional requirements for the ownership of UST's. This is where you pay your annual tank registration fees.

Every three years you must have your tanks inspected – active or inactive. More information is located at <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/assistance#accordion3-collapse3>. This will help you prepare for next inspection which must be performed between 90 and 180 days before your expiration date. Keep in contact with your inspector. A list of compliance inspectors is available at <https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/UST/Documents/MonthlyReportsPDF/LicensedComplianceInspectors.pdf>.

All facilities in Montana with UST systems must have at least [one Class A, Class B, and Class C operator](#). Our free online Class A and B operator training is located at <https://www.montanamoodle.org/?tenant=tankhelper2>. If you have problems with Tank Helper, do not hesitate to contact us.

In concurrence with the revised 2015 EPA UST Regulations, Montana has implemented several changes to UST operation, testing and inspection. These new changes are effective on October 13, 2021. The changes are:

1. Test or inspect following repairs to spill prevention equipment, overfill devices, and secondary containment areas
2. Use secondarily contained tanks and piping when installing or replacing these components
3. Use under-dispenser containment when installing new dispenser systems
4. Have trained class A, class B, and class C operators
5. Perform periodic testing of spill prevention equipment and containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring of piping
6. Perform annual testing of release detection equipment
7. Perform periodic inspections of overfill equipment
8. Perform periodic walkthrough inspections at the UST facility

The last five items are specific to owners and operators of UST facilities. There are several documents that will help with the new requirements. [Here](#) is a Class C operator training form to keep track of your Class C trained personnel. Here is a training checklist: [Class C Operator Training and Orientation Checklist](#)

A Montana specific [Walkthrough Inspection form](#) is also required to be onsite and current.

Also, State regulations require Underground Storage Tanks (UST) owners and operators to demonstrate financial responsibility for the clean-up or third-party liability compensation that results from a petroleum release from UST systems. The form is available at <https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/UST/Documents/PDFfiles/CERTFR.pdf>. You will need to show this to your compliance inspector. A brief explanation of financial responsibility is available at <https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/UST/Documents/PDFfiles/FR%20brochure.pdf?ver=2021-03-16-155724-770>. I have attached a form for this as well as a brochure explaining more about financial responsibility.

Mandatory Spill, Overfill and Suspect Release Reporting: Petroleum releases from regulated aboveground storage tanks (AST), underground storage tanks (UST) or petroleum storage tanks (PST) **must be reported to DEQ within 24 hours** of being detected as required by ARM 17.56, Subchapter 5. DEQ must be notified of releases of greater than 25 gallons of petroleum from an AST, UST or PST. Petroleum releases less than 25 gallons in volume must be contained and cleaned up within 24 hours. If cleanup cannot be completed within 24 hours, owners and operators must report the release to DEQ. DEQ maintains a leak line for reporting releases from an AST, UST or PST at 800-4570568. Outside normal business hours, releases must be reported to the DES Duty Officer 24-hour phone number at (406) 324-4777. Releases must be reported to a live person - voice mails are not adequate notification.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Periodic Testing Requirements and Compliance Record Keeping

This checklist is designed for the new owner or operator of a facility with underground petroleum storage tanks regulated by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Depending on what equipment you have, there may be different kinds of release detection and testing records that you must keep. This summary is based on observations of your equipment and available records. All of the following items pertain to your facility. Keep this checklist current (check ☒ each item when appropriate) to ensure that your facility is always compliant and safe.

Your current facility name is _____. Your Facility ID is _____

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- _____ Your must have a comprehensive compliance inspection for all of your tank systems and all of your records every three years. Your last compliance inspection was performed on _____. It expires on _____. Speak to your fuel contractor or inspector for scheduling this inspection. It must be done at least 90 days before it expires. Retain this record for at least three years. For more info: <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/assistance#accordion3-collapse3>
 - _____ Your financial responsibility (FR) mechanism must be reviewed by your inspector. You required to keep this available for your inspector upon request. This is a continuing requirement so you must keep it current. For more information on financial responsibility, please visit: <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/assistance#accordion3-collapse9>
 - _____ Your facility is required to have at least one Class A, Class B and Class C operator trained using the Montana Tank Helper online training program. If you desire more information on this or to access the free online operator training course, please visit <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/assistance#accordion3-collapse4> or you can access the Tank Helper training directly from [here](#).
 - _____ You are required to perform a facility walkthrough inspection **every 30 days**. This is a checklist of things that you need to check each month to ensure your facility is operating the way it should be. You may download the form at [MT DEQ WalkthroughInspectionForm.pdf](#). You must always have records of at least **12 months** of inspections available at all times.
 - _____ Your automatic tank gauge (ATG) must conduct a 0.2 gallons per hour (gph) or 0.1 gph tank leak test on each tank at least once **every 30 days**. The last **12 months** of these test results must be kept. A history report is not sufficient.
 - _____ Your piping's interstitial monitoring (i.e., sump sensors) status must be printed from your automatic tank gauge (ATG) at least once **every 30 days**. The last **12 months** of these records must be kept.
 - _____ You are using interstitial monitoring (IM) as your primary method of piping leak detection. Therefore, you must position each sensor on the bottom of the containment sumps **and** you must test all of your sensors **annually for operability**. Your containment sumps must be tested for liquid tightness at least once **every 3 years**.
 - _____ Your piping system is safe suction (European Suction). Your suction piping does not require any testing because there is only one check valve at each dispenser.
 - _____ Your facility has spill buckets for spill containment at the tank fill. You are required to have your spill buckets tested **every 3 years** to verify that they are liquid tight. Retain this record for at least three years.
 - _____ Your facility has drop tube shut off (DTSO) valves at the tank fills for overfill protection. This limits the amount that the tanks can be filled to 95% or less. You are required to have this tested **every 3 years** to verify that all are functional. Retain this record for at least three years.

We recommend that you use a three-ring binder with tabbed dividers to keep all of your records organized or have them organized electronically and make sure they are easily accessible.

Keep phone numbers for your delivery company, your inspector, your technician, and the UST Leak Reporting Line.

Hotline for Reporting Leaks: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. call 1-800-457-0568. After hours and holidays call 1-406-324-4777. NOTE: You must report to a live person. Leaving a message does not constitute a report.

For additional information, contact anyone at the MT DEQ UST Program at (406) 444-5300 or degustprogram@mt.gov or visit our website at <https://deq.mt.gov/twr/Programs/ust>