

Abandoned Tank Program

Leaks from petroleum storage tanks are one of the nation's leading causes of groundwater pollution. To prevent further soil and groundwater contamination and to protect the safety of all Minnesotans, the state's Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (Petrofund Board) developed a new initiative to help landowners address the problem and cover the costs. In 2003 the Petrofund Board received authorization from the Minnesota Legislature to pay for the removal of abandoned underground storage tanks across Minnesota.

Defining an Abandoned Underground Storage Tank

The Legislature defines an abandoned tank as an underground petroleum storage tank that was taken out of service before December 22, 1988. Tanks taken out of service after December 22, 1988 also qualify if the tank owner did not know of the existence of the tank and can show that they could not have reasonably known of the tank's existence at the time they first acquired the property.

Removing an Abandoned Tank

Once you determine that you own an abandoned tank and would like it removed, you may apply to the Board for its removal. After your application has been approved, the Board's staff will hire private contractors to remove the tank and conduct the necessary environmental sampling. If a leak is discovered during tank removal, the Board will also pay for the preparation and submission of an "excavation report" to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and if necessary, will remove and dispose of a limited amount of petroleum-contaminated soil.

Your Responsibility as an Owner of an Abandoned Tank

In order to be eligible, owners of abandoned tanks must agree to:

- Grant the Board and its contractors written access to the property where the tank is located, and
- Release the Board from liability for the work performed

In addition, if a leak is discovered and an investigation of the petroleum contamination becomes necessary, you must agree to:

- Complete the investigation and cleanup work to the best of your ability.
- Get proposals and hire a qualified environmental consultant to perform the additional work.

The Petrofund helps you manage these costs by providing reimbursement of up to 90% for the reasonable and necessary costs you incur in addressing the leak.

Lastly, you must agree that the Board is not responsible for surface restoration, such as replacing grass, asphalt, or concrete. To ensure public safety, the Board's contractor will fill the hole back up to grade level, but the contractor will not perform any additional surface restoration work.

Applying for Tank Removal

Applying to have your abandoned tank removed is easy. A two-page application form is available by contacting Petrofund staff or by [downloading it from this page](#).

Contact Information

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