

Focus on: Temporary Closure of USTs

What is a temporarily closed tank?

An Underground Storage Tank (UST) is temporarily closed when it is taken out of service and regulated petroleum products are not currently dispensed from the UST. Keep in mind, there may be city, county, fire code, or other local ordinances that have additional requirements for your underground storage tank.

When do you notify Ecology of a temporary tank closure?

Notify Ecology within thirty days of placing your UST into temporary closure. To meet this requirement, the Temporary Closure Notice (Form #ECY 070-525, Rev. 10/2018) must be completed and returned to Ecology within 30 days of temporary tank closure. Find it and many other publications on the Ecology web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/electrnc.html.

What are you required to do?

Requirements vary based on if the tank is empty or not, what the tanks are made of (steel, fiberglass etc.), and how long the tank will be temporarily closed. Further details on specific situations are addressed later in this document.

Do you have to pay tank permit fees during temporary closure?

Yes. Tank permit fees are required to be paid by any person who owns an underground storage tank located in the state of Washington. You are required to pay your permit fee until the tank is permanently closed.

Do you have to maintain insurance during temporary closure?

Yes, financial responsibility is required on your tank(s) if your system is temporarily closed. However, financial responsibility may be suspended if the following conditions are met:

- 1) The UST system is emptied to less than an inch from the bottom of the tank and all regulated materials are removed from the piping, and
- 2) After the UST system has been emptied an UST Site Assessment around the UST system is conducted and the Site Assessment report is submitted to Ecology.

A site assessment is not required if one of the following applies:

A release from the system had previously been confirmed and reported to Ecology; or
Further remedial action is necessary to investigate or clean up a confirmed release in accordance with chapter 173-340 WAC

The requirement to conduct a site assessment when suspending financial responsibility protects the owner by ensuring continuous financial responsibility for contamination during the policy period. Most pollution liability policies require that any claims made against the policy must be made within six months of the cancellation date. By conducting a site assessment, owners will know if there has been a release and be able to file a claim to pay for cleanup costs.

If the Temporary Closure is for LESS THAN THREE MONTHS:

- Perform release detection if the tank contains gas, diesel, or other regulated substances. *(If it has not been determined how long the UST system will be in temporary closure, Ecology strongly recommends that all regulated petroleum products be removed from the UST's. **Release detection is not required on empty tanks.**)*
- Maintain corrosion protection (CP) conduct CP tests every three years and repair as necessary. Continue performing the every 60 - day impressed current systems rectifier checks.
- Continue maintaining all records relating to the UST system.

If the Temporary Closure is for THREE TO TWELVE MONTHS:

- Same as temporary closure less than three months (maintain corrosion protection and meet release detection requirements), AND
- Cap and lock your lines, pumps, and any other equipment to prevent anything from being put into your tank or damaging your equipment. Make sure to keep the tank's vent lines open, AND
- Return facility compliance tag to Ecology.

If Temporary Closure is for MORE THAN TWELVE MONTHS:

- Same as temporary closure three to twelve months (maintain corrosion protection and meet release detection requirements), OR
- Permanently close the UST system, using an ICC certified service provider if corrosion protection requirements have not been met.

Okay, I'm ready to re-open my business. What's next?

Prior to placing your tanks back into service, contact the UST inspector in your area to assist you. Have all the necessary testing conducted by an ICC Certified service provider to ensure the UST system is in good working order and has not experienced any physical damage, including corrosion. *If you kept product in your tank and conducted release detection throughout the temporary closure period, then tightness testing is not required prior to being put back into service.*

Follow the instructions on the [Operational Status Notice](#) for testing and proof of pollution liability insurance coverage, then submit it to Ecology within 30 days. After Ecology receives all of the necessary paperwork, you will be issued a new facility compliance tag. Once you post your new compliance tag and receive your business license with your tank endorsements, you may operate your UST system.

Central Region	(509) 575-2490
Eastern Region	(509) 329-3400
Northwest Region	(425) 649-7000
Whatcom Co.	(360) 255-4400
Southwest Region	(360) 407-6300
Headquarters	(360) 407-7270
(Federal Facilities in Western WA)	



Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7668 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.