

The Oil Control Program

The Oil Control Program within the Waste Management Administration of the Department of the Environment regulates all oil-related activities, such as aboveground and underground oil storage facilities, oil-contaminated soil treatment facilities, and oil transportation. The program oversees the installation, maintenance, operation and removal of underground storage tanks (USTs). The program maintains a registration database of all regulated USTs. We investigate complaints of illegal dumpings and the improper handling of oil as well as non-compliance with State and federal regulations. The Program maintains a strong enforcement presence with inspectors investigating oil pollution problems and complaints. Penalties assessed for oil pollution violations can be as high as \$10,000 per day.

USTs

The Oil Control Program has highly trained staff to help companies and individuals ensure that their USTs are in compliance with State and federal regulations. All regulated USTs within the State are required to be registered through the Underground Storage Tank Notification Program. All USTs storing motor fuels (i.e., gasoline, diesel) must be upgraded or replaced by December 1998 to specific technical standards (corrosion protection and spill/overfill protection). Other standards such as leak/release detection and financial responsibility were required by December 1993.

Leaking USTs (LUSTs)

Should a tank leak, the Oil Control Program oversees the cleanup. We oversee about 1,000 responsible party cleanup activities around the State. The objective is to assure the protection of the citizens of our State and their environment.

Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

The Oil Control Program issues oil operations permits to facilities that store virgin oil, including gasoline, in ASTs with 10,000 gallons or more capacity or store used oil in ASTs with 1,000 gallons or more capacity. Our staff is available to assist in reviewing plans and is available to interpret State and federal regulations regarding ASTs.

UST Loan Program

A program through the Waste Management Administration, known as Linked Deposit may provide owners of underground oil storage tanks a way to replace those tanks.

Reimbursement Program

The Oil Contaminated Site Environmental Cleanup Fund was established to reimburse UST owners or operators for costs incurred after October 1, 1993 for the cleanup of contaminated sites. As of July 2000, owners of commercial underground heating oil tanks and residential owners of underground and aboveground heating oil systems were included in this program.

UST Installers Certification Program

Individuals who install, repair or upgrade UST systems are required to be certified to ensure all applicable regulations are met and proper and safe techniques are followed. After passing an exam, a certification card is issued. For further information on our program the following numbers are offered for your use.

For technical information on USTs:
(410) 537-3443

For technical information on ASTs and Loan or Reimbursement Programs:
(410) 537-3386

For compliance information:
(410) 537-3442

Our toll free number is available for Maryland residents: (800) 633-6101, then ask for the last four digits of the above numbers.

TO REPORT OIL SPILLS CALL:
(866) 633-4686, 24 hrs. a day

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