

# This is no way to deal with worries about fuel oil spills

A fuel oil spill or leak can be devastating – to your health, the environment and the value of your property.

But with proper maintenance and some common sense, you can reduce that risk.

## WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.

Proper care of your residential fuel oil tank is in everyone's best interest.

By working together, we can reduce the risk and protect our family, home and environment.



## Keep your eyes wide open and protect your family and property



As homes age, more maintenance is needed. Your fuel oil tank and equipment can corrode from the inside, topple over or develop hairline fractures that leak oil. That can mean significant damage to your health, your home and surrounding property. Under the **Environmental Protection Act**, you have a legal responsibility to maintain a fuel oil tank and to clean up from any spills.

To protect you and all our members, we have developed these specific guidelines to help prevent spills.

## Four easy steps you can take to reduce the chance of an oil spill or leak

### MAINTAIN IT!

Get your heating system serviced annually by a licensed technician. This can be your single biggest protection against leaking fuel oil. And it's the law.

Be sure to keep proof of these inspections for your insurance company.

### REPLACE IT!

Nothing lasts forever, especially fuel tanks. Typically, indoor models should be replaced at least every 20 years. Outdoors - every 15 years. (Check with your agent to confirm.)

### BUY IT NEW!

Don't buy a used or 'refurbished' tank. And be sure your new ULC\* approved tank is installed by a licensed technician.

### CHECK IT!

Make sure your fuel oil delivery company has easy access to the fill pipe and keep the vent clear.

Be on the lookout yourself for:

- visible signs of leaks
- the smell of fuel oil
- uneven ground - never stack the tank on wood or blocks – it can easily tip over!

Rust, corrosion and staining are all early warning signs of trouble.

### Have an outside tank?

- clear any weeds, ice and bugs near it, and keep the tank filled even in the off season to prevent condensation, which speeds up corrosion.
- shield it from falling ice or vehicle impact.

### What to do in the event of a spill

Despite all the precautions you take, accidents can happen. If there's a spill or even if you suspect there's one: stop the flow of oil at its source if you can and contain any oil that has spilled

This will minimize the impact to the environment, to your neighbors and to your own property.

Call your fuel oil service company and call us right away. Reporting the spill is the law under Ontario's Environmental Protection Act.

If you have a leak, call the Ontario-wide **Spills Action Centre** - 24 hours a day/7 days a week **1-800-268-6060**.