

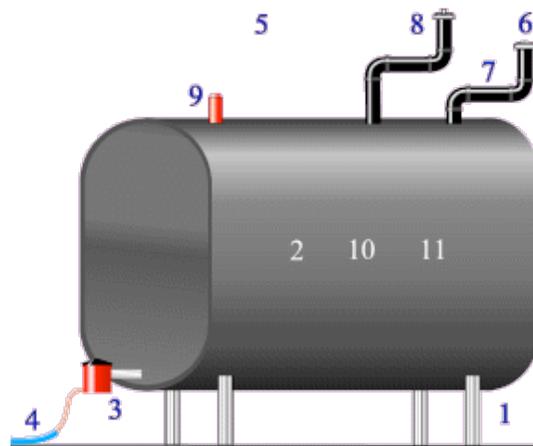
Fuel Oil Tanks

Inspecting your oil tank

1. Are the tank legs stable, straight and strong or on a shaky foundation?
2. Are there any signs of rust, weeping, wet spots or dents on the tank?
3. Is the tank blackened at the low end, around the drain? (This may be an indication of water in the tank, and resultant corrosion inside the tank.)
4. Are there any drips or signs of leakage around the fuel line, filter or valves?
5. Is there danger of snow or ice falling on the tank?
6. Is the vent clogged or restricted because of snow, ice or insect nests? (Screened vents can help prevent insect nest problems.)
7. Is the vent whistle silent when the tank is being filled? (Ask the fuel delivery person.)
8. Are there signs of leakage or spills around the fill pipe or vent pipe?
9. Is the fuel-level gauge cracked, stuck or frozen? Are there signs of oil around it?
10. If mounted outdoors, is the tank rated for outdoor use?
11. What is the age of the tank? (Not usually indicated until after 1998.)

New or replacement oil tank regulations

Chatham requires use of a “double walled tank” for all new and replacement installations. These double walled tanks are essentially a tank within a tank and offer greater protection from fuel oil loss into the soil and ground water.



A permit must be obtained by your oil burner technician prior to the installation of a new or replacement tank.

A permit is also required for the removal of a fuel tank. Horror stories appear regularly in the news about fuel being pumped into a basement after a tank has been removed.

The tank must be cleaned of waste fuel and sludge and removed to a disposal yard. The tank yard must provide a receipt to the fire department.

Contact your fuel oil company, heating contractor or the Chatham Fire Department (508)945-2324 if you have more questions.