



City of Santa Barbara
Fire Department

Underground Liquid Storage Tanks – Guidelines for Removal

STANDARD DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS

STEP I

Submit plans and obtain a tank removal permit from the Building & Safety Division located at 630 Garden Street, (805) 564-5485. Additionally, obtain a tank removal permit from the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Department at 225 Camino del Remedio, (805) 681-4901 or <https://www.countyofsb.org/414/Environmental-Health>

STEP II

Plans submitted shall include:

1. Step-by-step procedures for removal of the tank(s) see Step III.
2. Site plan showing tank size, contents, location on property and location/distance to the nearest fire hydrant.

Call to schedule an inspection with a Santa Barbara City Fire Department Inspector at least *24 hours in advance* at 564-5702.

Have permit and plans on site.

STEP III

Removal procedures shall include:

1. Barrier/caution tape and No Smoking signs shall be posted in order to keep any sources of ignition at least 25 feet away from the excavation.
2. Have two 40BC fire extinguishers readily available and currently serviced.
3. Remove all liquids, de-gas, and inert the tank(s).
4. Render tank(s) inert with 2.2 pounds of solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) per each 100-gallon tank capacity. Save the purchase receipt for the dry ice to show to the inspector.
5. Cap all openings with exception to vent pipe. When oxygen content is below 5% the tank is considered to be inert.
6. If removing the tank “clean,” washing may cease when the sludge and debris is removed and the LEL is 0%.
7. Excavate and expose tank(s). Identify all piping associated with tank(s). Disconnect and remove piping, vent lines, electrical lines, and in-tank pump(s).
8. Remove tank(s) from the excavation, remove external dirt with a non-sparking tool and secure dirt. Tank(s) must be placed on the transportation vehicle with the tank opening at the top. Placard accordingly.