

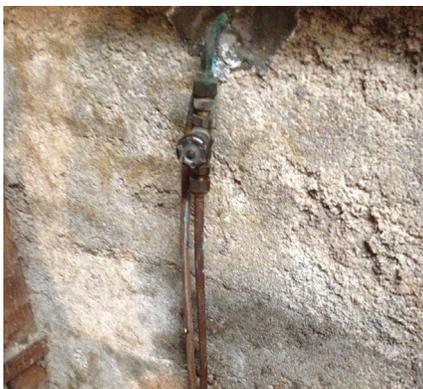


Galvanized-Steel Product Supply Lines (double trouble)

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Both above and underground storage tanks (AST and UST) are used to store heating oil for use by furnaces and boilers. Product (heating oil) is drawn by a pump on the furnace to the burner via a product supply line. Most oil furnace systems have two product lines – one to convey fuel to the burner and the other to return unused fuel back to the tank. UST product lines are usually plumbed to the top of the tank. Commonly, the product lines are buried about 2-feet below the ground surface, however some can be as shallow as 1-foot or as deep as 6-feet or more.



Most residential heating oil product supply lines are made of copper.

Buried copper product lines are not prone to corrosion and, therefore, do not become thin and leak. Unlike copper lines, galvanized-steel product lines readily corrode in soil. As a result, most steel product lines have leaked petroleum into the soil

beneath the building and/or between the tank and building.



Wall with steel product lines, saturated with product.

An estimated 50% of underground heating oil tanks have leaked, while the percentage of steel lines that have leaked is greater. As a result, only soil sampling beneath an underground storage tank could easily fail to detect petroleum contaminated soil beneath the product lines, and cleanup can be costly for a current or future property owner.

Do steel product lines spell double trouble? Possibly. Steel product lines provide another potential source of petroleum leakage and potentially create two pockets of contaminated soil on a property – one under the tank and another under the basement floor or crawlspace.

Because of the high likelihood of steel lines leaking, EcoTech recommends soil sampling along steel product lines

when sampling soil off the ends of underground heating oil tanks. EcoTech requires sampling in one or more locations along steel lines for voluntary registration of underground heating oil tank decommissioning in Oregon.



Diamond coring bit is used to drill through concrete floor to provide soil sampling access

DEQ requires reporting of any leakage from the system of a petroleum storage tank. DEQ applies the same cleanup requirements and rules to leaking product lines as to leaking USTs – even if only the product lines have leaked.

There is regulatory ambiguity regarding ASTs. Cleanups from aboveground tank systems may be managed by one or more of three different departments within DEQ, depending upon a handful of variables. Potentially, this may increase the time and costs of cleanups for leaking AST systems.

EcoTech is a licensed with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a third party provider for heating oil tank services. We're experienced and knowledgeable about regulatory requirements and insurance trends, ensuring the best protection and service available. We assess properties, conduct soil sampling, decommission oil tanks and complete related cleanup services.