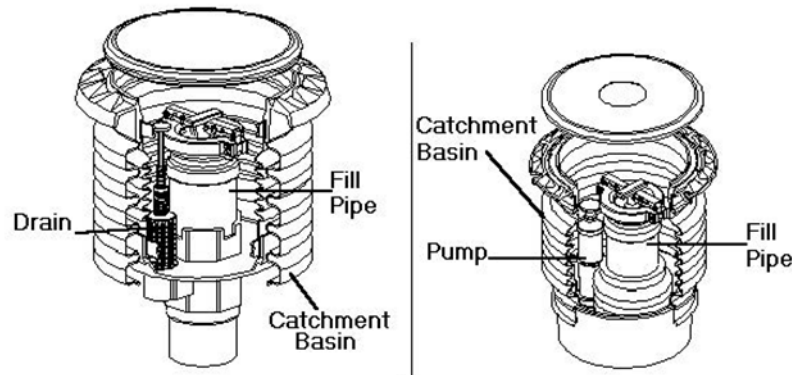


Spill Prevention for Underground Storage Tanks

Overview

Many releases at underground storage tank (UST) sites come from spills and overfills that occur during delivery. Although these spills are usually small, repeated small releases can cause big environmental problems. To help prevent spills during tank filling, UST owners must install and maintain spill buckets. Spill buckets must be visually inspected once every 30 days as part of a facility walk through inspection and tested every 3 years.

UST Spill Buckets



Note: not all spill buckets have drains or pumps.

What is spill bucket?

A spill bucket (or spill containment device) is a bucket-shaped device that is designed to catch the small amounts of product that may leak out of a delivery hose during delivery and temporarily hold it until the product can be disposed of properly. Only USTs that receive deliveries of 25 gallons or more at a time must have a spill bucket, although DEQ recommends that any UST receiving a delivery have one. Spill buckets must be leak proof and empty to do their job, so it is important to check them regularly to make sure they are not filling up with debris or liquid and they are not leaking.

Monthly Inspections

Tank owners are required to perform a walkthrough inspection of their facility annually and every 30 days to ensure the UST equipment is functioning properly and is in good repair. Walkthrough inspections may be conducted by the tank owner or operator or by a qualified third party. The person conducting the inspection must be either qualified to conduct the inspection, as defined by Petroleum Equipment Institute's RP900 (Recommended Practices for the Inspection and Maintenance of UST Systems), or must demonstrate they have the knowledge to conduct walkthrough inspections. Class A and Class B UST Operators that have completed an approved operator training course are qualified to perform walkthrough inspections. (See DEQ's fact sheet on Walkthrough Inspections for additional information.)

Spill bucket checks are an important part of the monthly walkthrough inspection requirement. Spill buckets must be inspected during the monthly facility walkthrough to check for damage and to make sure the spill bucket can function as designed.

Spill bucket inspection steps:

1. Remove any leaves, trash, debris, and fluid (water or fuel) from the spill bucket. Liquid and debris in spill buckets can decrease the volume available to contain spills and can mask damage to the bucket itself. **Petroleum-contaminated fluid and debris must be disposed of properly.** Your service provider should handle that for you.
2. Check the spill bucket for damage such as cracks or tears. Use a flashlight to examine the interior of the bucket. Pay special attention to the sides of the bucket if they are ridged.
3. Check the fill cap to make sure it is securely on the fill pipe.
4. For double-walled spill buckets with an interstitial monitor - check for a leak in the interstitial area.
5. Record any problems noted and actions taken to correct them on an approved Monthly Walkthrough Inspection form. The form must include the date the inspection was conducted and the inspector's initials. Problems noted should be corrected and documented as soon as possible.

Exceptions to the monthly visual inspection requirement:

1. If a UST receives delivery infrequently, such as a UST at a remote unmanned location, the spill bucket may be inspected before each delivery rather than once every 30 days. If equipment is checked less frequently than once every 30 days due to infrequent deliveries, you must keep the delivery records with the walkthrough inspection form.
2. Spill bucket inspections are not required if the tank owner has taken all the steps necessary to place the underground storage tank into temporary closure.

Spill Bucket Testing

Spill buckets must be tightness tested when they are installed and then every three years. The tester must be qualified to perform the test. (See Petroleum Equipment Institute's RP1200-Recommended Practices for the Testing and Verification of Spill, Overfill, Leak Detection and Secondary Containment Equipment at UST Facilities for qualification requirements)

Allowable test methods are:

- The spill bucket manufacturer's testing procedure.
- Petroleum Equipment Institute's RP1200
- Vacuum test (secondary interstice test for double walled spill buckets)

Spill buckets that fail this testing must be repaired or replaced and retested.

Recordkeeping

Monthly inspections: Monthly visual inspection records must be available for review upon request for at least 12 months after the inspection.

Testing records: Spill bucket test records must be kept on site or available upon request for three years or until the next test is conducted.

For more info/questions, contact the Office of Spill Response & Remediation at (804) 774-8338 or tank@deq.virginia.gov, or contact your regional DEQ Office: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/about-us/contact-us>