

*This brochure is effective
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SPILL BUCKETS

MANAGING YOUR

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK



Owners and operators of regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) on tribal lands must comply with the federal UST regulation.

This compliance assistance brochure highlights tips to help you manage your spill buckets.

Note: This document is a resource to promote compliance and does not replace the federal UST regulation.

This brochure is one in a series of EPA compliance assistance brochures designed to help owners and operators in Indian country comply with the federal UST regulation.

Other brochures focus on implementation, compatibility, overfill protection, recordkeeping and notification, financial responsibility, insurance, tank release detection, and piping release detection.

www.epa.gov/ust/publications-related-underground-storage-tanks



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Compliance Assistance In
Indian Country

SPILL PREVENTION

[Spill prevention](#) is required for every underground storage tank (UST) that is filled with more than 25 gallons of product at one time. Spill prevention devices (for example, spill buckets) attached to your UST can help prevent releases into the environment.



Spill bucket

Repeated small releases can cause big environmental problems. Spill buckets can be a common source of spills. Improper maintenance of your spill bucket may contribute to significant soil and groundwater contamination.

What can you do to prevent spills from spill buckets?

Remove debris and liquid in spill buckets

Spill buckets are designed to temporarily contain small product spills released during delivery and are not for long-term storage of product. Accumulated debris or liquid reduces containment capacity and ability to prevent spills.



Liquid in spill bucket

Keep your spill buckets clean and dry. Empty spill buckets immediately and properly dispose of the contents.

Replace damaged gaskets and seals

Damaged seals and gaskets can result in non-tight spill buckets. This can allow a release into the environment.



Damaged seal in poor condition

Inspect your spill bucket every 30 days as part of your walkthrough inspection.

Inspect all seals—including around the fill riser—for any cracks, damage, or holes. Replace or repair, as needed.

Repair or replace damaged spill buckets

Damaged, cracked, or corroded spill buckets are not liquid-tight and will not contain the spilled product.



Deformed spill bucket wall

Most spill buckets are not designed to last as long as an UST.

Inspect for damage, corrosion, and deformation.

Every three years, test your spill bucket and, if necessary, repair or replace to make sure it works properly.



Damaged spill bucket

REMEMBER

- Test your spill bucket at least every three years for tightness or use a double-walled spill bucket with interstitial monitoring.
- For double-walled spill buckets, check for a leak in the interstitial area.
- A damaged, missing, or poorly fitting spill bucket lid may allow water and debris to collect in the spill bucket and enter into the tank.
- Inspect spill buckets before and immediately after product delivery. Remove spilled product immediately.
- Keep spill buckets clean and free of liquids and debris.
 - Inspect spill buckets after it rains, or after snow melts
 - Dispose of liquid properly
- Repair or replace damaged or cracked spill buckets and lids immediately.
- Inspect and replace damaged seals and gaskets immediately.
- Inspect and replace damaged spill bucket drain valves immediately.
- Look for and remove any obstructions in the fill pipe.



Broken spill bucket lid

If you are not sure about the tightness of your spill buckets, have a qualified service technician test them for leaks.

For additional information on requirements for managing your spill bucket, see EPA's [Must For USTs](#) or order a free copy by calling (800) 490-9198.