



# Permanent Closure of Storage Tanks

## BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

PO Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 224-4942  
datcp.wi.gov

## RESOURCES

Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 93  
[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/atcp/090/93](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/090/93)

Storage Tanks Website  
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/PetroleumHazStorageTanks.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PetroleumHazStorageTanks.aspx)

Form TR-WM-121  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TR-WM-121.docx>

Form TR-WM-137  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TR-WM-137.pdf>

Form TR-WM-118  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TR-WM-118.docx>

Form TR-WM-140  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TR-WM-140.pdf>

TSSA Guide  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TSSA.pdf>

Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 93 regulates the closure of tanks that store, transfer or dispense any flammable, combustible or hazardous liquids. Underground tanks with a liquid capacity of 60 gallons or more, and aboveground tanks with a liquid capacity of 5,000 gallons or more that are intended for stationary use are covered under this rule.

In order to close a storage tank, the owner or operator must notify DATCP or the authorized agent at least five business days before beginning permanent closure of a tank system using form [TR-WM-121](#).

## Underground Tank Systems

To permanently close an underground tank system, the owner or operator must comply with the following requirements per [Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 93.560](#):

- Empty and clean the tank and piping using a process that complies with API 1604.
- Removal or cleaning of a storage tank is required to be performed by a tank specialty firm using certified technicians. A list of tank specialty firms can be found on our website here: [https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List\\_of\\_Tank\\_Specialty\\_Firm\\_Registrations.pdf](https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List_of_Tank_Specialty_Firm_Registrations.pdf)
- Complete the revised tank registration form [TR-WM-137](#) and submit it to DATCP within 21 business days of closure or removal.
- Perform a tank-system site assessment in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 93.560(3) and the [TSSA Guide](#).

In most circumstances underground tanks systems must be removed. However, if one or more of the following conditions exist, the owner or operator may submit a written request to DATCP to close the tank system in-place by filling with an inert, solid material, after emptying and cleaning:

- Excavation would impact the structural integrity of an adjacent building or structure.
- Overhead utilities at a commercial site pose a safety hazard.
- Excavation would impact adjacent transformers or substations.
- Unauthorized encroachment would occur onto neighboring property under different ownership.
- The tank location is inaccessible to necessary equipment.
- Excavation would result in the destruction of mature trees.
- Excavation would encroach upon a public way.
- Excavation would necessitate the disconnection or relocation of underground utilities.

Closing a tank in-place does not exempt the tank from tank-system site assessment requirements.

### Aboveground Tank Systems

To permanently close a shop-built aboveground tank system, the owner or operator must comply with following requirements per [Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 93.460](#):

- Empty and clean the tank and piping using a process that complies with ANSI/API 2015-2001.
  - Removal or cleaning of a storage tank is required to be performed by a tank specialty firm using certified technicians. A list of tank specialty firms can be found on our website here: [https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List\\_of\\_Tank\\_Specialty\\_Firm\\_Registrations.pdf](https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List_of_Tank_Specialty_Firm_Registrations.pdf)
    - Certified persons are not required to perform the cleaning and removal of:
      - Heating fuel tanks at 1 and 2 family dwellings
      - Field-erected tanks
      - Tanks storing a Class III liquid that is neither petroleum nor CERCLA-listed.
  - Tanks that are not immediately removed shall have the word “CLOSED” and the date of permanent closure marked on the tank at least 3 feet above grade, with lettering at least 3 inches in height.
- Complete form [TR-WM-118](#) and part A of form [TR-WM-140](#) and submit to DATCP within 21 business days of closure.
- Perform a tank-system site assessment in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 93.465.