

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

This compliance assistance brochure highlights best management practices for spill buckets.

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

EPA developed this brochure to help UST owners and operators in Indian country comply with the federal UST regulations.

This brochure is one in a series of EPA compliance assistance brochures designed to help owners and operators comply with UST regulations.

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

www.epa.gov/oust/pubs

SPILL BUCKETS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR YOUR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK



Office of 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 attached to your UST (for example a spill bucket) 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/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

Periodically 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 containment is not designed to last as long as an UST.

Periodically inspect for damage, corrosion, and deformation.

Perform an integrity test and, if necessary, repair or replace to make sure it works properly.



Damaged spill bucket

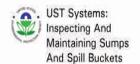
REMEMBER

- 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.

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

For recommended inspection guidelines and best management practices for your UST system spill bucket, see EPA's ***UST Systems: Inspecting And Maintaining Sumps And Spill Buckets—Practical Help And Checklist***, at

www.epa.gov/oust/pubs/sumpman1.htm or order a free copy by calling (800) 490-9198.



Practical Help And Checklist:

