

## Decommissioning of a heating oil tank

1. Have the tank emptied and cleaned of oil and oily sludge (KTMP 314/1985, section 47 — A decision by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on oil heating equipment, in Finnish). We recommend hiring a contractor with sufficient professional skills to do the work, for example an inspection company approved by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes). Ask for a report on the decommissioning of the tank.  
*For a list of inspection companies approved by Tukes, see <http://rekisterit.tukes.fi/toiminnanharjoittajat> (in Finnish) or a business directory.*  
Check the municipal environmental protection regulations for the obligations related to the removal of an oil tank and contact a representative of the municipal environmental protection authority where necessary.
2. Fit the tank's fill pipe with a plug or otherwise prevent the use of the tank (KTMP 314/1985, section 47). It is recommended to remove the tank's fill pipe, air pipe and over-fill prevention device to prevent incorrect filling.
3. Removal of the tank from the property:

If the tank is dismantled, caution should be exercised and hot work regulations observed where necessary (Technical recommendation TS-7 (in Finnish). Heating Energy Association 2012, p. 46). If other structures are demolished and the intended use of the premises change, contact your local building control authority to find out whether a permit or a notification is required (The Land Use and Building Act 132/1999, sections 125–126a). We recommend hiring a contractor with sufficient professional skills to dismantle the tank and pipes, for example an inspection company approved by Tukes.

A tank located inside a building, in a protective chamber or underground, and the piping connected to the tank must be removed if the environmental protection regulations or the building ordinances of the municipality so require.

4. A record of the decommissioning and possible dismantling of the oil tank should be sent to the rescue authority and, where appropriate, to the environmental protection authority. The rescue authority holds a register with information on the tanks on oil-heated properties.
5. Notify the environmental protection authority and, if necessary, the rescue authority if oil is detected in the soil or structures during the inspection or dismantling or excavation of the tank.