

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Removal Safety Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Pre-Excavation & Site Assessment

☐ Has a thorough site assessment been conducted to identify potential leaks or spills prior to excavation?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is the 811 (One-Call) utility markout complete and documented? Verify all underground utilities are clearly marked.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is a soil sampling plan in place to assess potential contamination levels during and after UST removal?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is site access controlled to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the excavation zone?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Has the prevailing wind direction been assessed to determine vapor dispersion patterns?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Are emergency contact numbers (fire department, hazmat team, hospital) clearly posted on site?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Has the soil type been identified to determine appropriate shoring or sloping requirements?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Have UST records (age, contents, leak history) been reviewed prior to excavation?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Is a site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) developed and communicated to all personnel?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Has all excavation and removal equipment been inspected for proper function and safety?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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Tank Inerting & Vapor Control

☐	Is the LEL monitor calibrated and bump-tested daily? Record calibration results.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are LEL readings being continuously monitored and documented in the excavation zone and around the UST?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is an adequate supply of inerting gas (e.g., nitrogen, carbon dioxide) readily available?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the tank inerting procedure being followed according to NFPA 326 and site-specific plan?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the oxygen level inside the UST being monitored to ensure it is below the required threshold (typically <5%)?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is proper grounding and bonding established to prevent static electricity buildup during inerting?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are vapor suppression techniques (e.g., foam, water spray) in place to minimize vapor release during tank opening?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Are all potential ignition sources (e.g., smoking, open flames, non-intrinsically safe equipment) controlled within the work area?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is adequate ventilation provided to disperse any released vapors?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is a vapor recovery system in place and functioning correctly to capture released vapors?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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Excavation & Tank Removal

☐	Is trench shoring or sloping adequate to prevent collapse, based on soil type and excavation depth? (OSHA 1926 Subpart P)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is a competent person (as defined by OSHA) on site to inspect the excavation daily?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the spoils pile located at least 2 feet (0.6 meters) from the edge of the excavation?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is the lifting equipment (crane, excavator) properly rated for the weight of the UST?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Is a detailed lifting plan in place and followed during tank removal?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the sling inspection current and documented? Verify sling rating exceeds the load.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a spotter present during the tank lifting operation to guide the crane operator?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the tank integrity being continuously monitored during lifting to prevent ruptures or spills?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is spill containment (e.g., absorbent pads, berms) readily available in case of a leak during lifting?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is there visual evidence of soil contamination during excavation? If yes, implement the soil management plan.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the removed tank placed on an impermeable berm or containment area to prevent further soil contamination?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

☐	Are hard hats worn by all personnel within the excavation zone? (ANSI Z89.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are safety glasses with side shields worn to protect against dust and debris? (ANSI Z87.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are steel-toe boots worn to protect against foot injuries? (ANSI Z41)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are appropriate gloves worn to protect against chemical exposure and physical hazards? (EN 374)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is respiratory protection (e.g., respirator) adequate for the identified vapor concentrations? (NIOSH approved)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Have personnel been properly fit-tested for their respirators? (OSHA 1910.134)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is high-visibility clothing (e.g., safety vest) worn by all personnel within the work zone? (ANSI 107)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is chemical-resistant clothing worn if there is a potential for contact with contaminated soil or liquids?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is an eyewash station readily available in case of chemical exposure?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a fully stocked first-aid kit readily available on site?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Documentation & Reporting

☐	Is a daily safety briefing conducted and documented, covering hazards and safe work practices?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the UST removal permit readily available on site?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are waste manifests properly completed for contaminated soil and tank contents?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are soil sampling results documented and compared to regulatory limits?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a certificate of tank cleaning and disposal provided by a qualified contractor?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is photo documentation being maintained throughout the UST removal process?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is an incident reporting procedure in place and understood by all personnel?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are any leaks or spills immediately reported to the appropriate regulatory agencies?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is a site restoration plan in place to address any remaining contamination and restore the site to its original condition?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Are daily inspection reports completed and retained on site?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____