



If You Give a Regulator an Idea...

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BACKYARD OIL DISPOSAL

Text & photos by C. J. Baker ■ If you enjoy working on cars, you probably change your own oil to save a few bucks. The only problem with changing your own oil is how to dispose of the used oil that you drain from the engine. Since oil will kill any grass or plants that it contacts, you can't just dump it in the yard. Pouring the oil into the sewer isn't the answer either since it makes quite a mess and it fouls up the equipment in the sewage treatment plant. So if you're concerned about your local environment, here's a neat way to dispose of that old oil.

Select a convenient location in your yard or flower bed and dig a hole about two feet square and two to three feet deep. Fill the hole to within about eight inches of the top with very coarse gravel. Position an 8-inch clay tile as shown and then put another three or four inches of gravel around the base of the tile. Finish filling the hole with dirt that you dug out.

Oil can now be poured into the disposal pit through the tile. The oil then filters through the gravel and gradually soaks into the earth below without disturbing surrounding grass, flowers or plants. The gravel and tile should only cost about \$2 and you'll never have to worry about how to dispose of used oil again. ■ ■

How to create an oil dump in your own backyard with an hour's work and a \$2 investment



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➤ Scare Tactics

Remember 1998?

"EPA has targeted 21,000 Pennsylvania storage tank owners for fines up to \$10,000 a day. That's right. Your storage tank is a ticking time bomb at your business. And time is running out. Because we have obtained EPA's list of Pennsylvania Storage Tank Enforcement Targets and your name is on it. These people won't go away, and they are ruthless: they have stated that delivering tank fines up to \$10,000 a day will be their top priority in 1997."

➤ Problem Solved?



➤ Problem Solved?



➤ Problem Solved?



➤ Problem Solved?



But now we are good, right?

- **Trained Class A and Class B Operators**
- **Secondary Containment Requirements**
- **Compliance Monitoring Companies**
- **Newer Equipment/Advanced Technologies**
- **Knowledgeable Staff**

No more problems

From Recent Inspection

Owner was a “trained” Class A and Class B Operator

Violations:

- **Missing release detection**
- **Water in containment sumps and spill buckets**
- **Stage 1 dry-break valve was broken and non-functional**
- **The sensors were raised in the containment sumps**
- **The interstitial riser cap of Tank 1 was broken**
- **The fill cap of Tank 2 was chipped past the gasket**

➤ Let's Add More.....

- **Periodic walkthrough inspections**
- **Three-year overfill prevention equipment inspections**
- **Three-year containment sump AND spill bucket testing**
- **Annual release detection equipment testing**
- **Emergency Generator Release Detection**

➤ Future

Current regulations + Additional regulations + Aging tank systems + Staff shortage/Knowledge drain + Budget cuts + “Innovative” repairs

So...are we ready for what is to come.....

What will we unearth?

- **Telescopic Piping**
 - Total Containment sold a system that has a 4 inch chase pipe along with a Schedule 20 PVC pipe that all contained (usually) a 3 inch FRP primary pipe. The system was sold to customers as a double-walled piping system.
- **Acceptable statement?**
 - If there have been zero problems with the fiberglass piping system over the past 20 years, then you are probably safe in considering that this is an acceptable single-wall system.

What about compatibility?

- **Older Fiberglass Tanks**
 - “Tanks produced prior to January 1981 were not warranted for any alcohol or alcohol blend fuels.”
 - “Tanks were not warranted, tested for, or intended to store fuel with more than 10% ethanol blend.”

Compatible or not compatible with E10?

What about compatibility?

- **Sensors**
 - **While B100 installations may contain the X and Y sensors that were not specifically designed for use with B100, Company Y does not anticipate any issue where these two sensors would fail immediately when encountering B100 for the first time**
 - **However, Company Y cannot guarantee how the X and Y sensors will perform with repeated contact or long-term exposure to B100.**

Or

- **The Company Y X and Y sensors are compatible for single-use liquid exposure to B100.**

My containment sump failed....can I repair it?

- **Penetration boot manufacturer recommends method to repair penetration boot that involves cutting holes in containment sump**
 - **No containment sump manufacturer repair instructions exist**
 - **No industry standard or independent third party laboratory documentation outlining this “repair” exists.**

Do you accept it?

➤ Items to Consider

Compatibility

- **Do you request compatibility information? Do you have a form to verify compatibility?**
- **Do you check it? Compare what is reported with what is at site?**

➤ Items to Consider

Aging Tanks

- **Any issues with older tanks failing? Anyone keeping track?**
- **Placing back in service, do you request any information?**
- **Periodic internal inspections after X number of years since install?**

► Items to Consider

Repairs

- **Are we clear what we expect?**
- **Do we allow alternatives?**
- **Remember what history has taught us.**

► Items to Consider

Staff Shortages

- Use of third-party inspectors
- Who has them/who doesn't
- If not, why?

➤ Items to Consider

- **e-Permitting and Online Registration**
- **Mobile Inspections**
- **Electronic submission of information**
- **Implementation of New Regulations**



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