

# Your fuel oil tank may have been affected by flooding.



1. During floods, tanks can become unstable, unanchored, or damaged, allowing oil to escape.
2. If your tank is located in a basement that flooded, it is a good idea to have a licensed burner technician check your tank, lines, and appliances. You can search “oil burner technician” in an internet search engine, like Google or GoogleMaps.
3. If fuel is visible, stop the spill and contain it if possible. Fuel on the ground or on shallow water can be contained by constructing a small berm. Absorbent material like cat litter can be used to contain fuel that is on the ground. If safe, scoop any absorbed material into a metal container to prevent it from entering the environment. Keep any spilled or absorbed material in a well-ventilated area.
4. Contact the local municipal works department if the spill has entered a municipal sewer through a floor drain or has entered a storm drain.
5. If fuel oil has entered a watercourse or for any spill over 100 litres, you should contact your local Department of Environment and Climate Change office to report the spill. [Regional and District Office Locations | Department \(novascotia.ca\)](#). If your tank is empty and you had more than 1/10 of a tank before the flood, you should assume that the spill was over 100 litres. Depending on the information you provide, an Environment Officer may visit your property or provide other instructions. You may be required to complete a Notification form: [FRM100\\_Notification\\_of\\_Free\\_Product\\_or\\_Contamination\\_Form.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
6. If you have homeowners’ insurance, contact your insurance company. Coverage for fuel oil spills may apply if the oil has migrated to a neighbouring property or is at risk of doing so, or if it has damaged your home (i.e. the building structure itself).
7. You may require the services of specialised contractors such as environmental consultants or a site professional. A site professional will help guide you through the contaminated sites process regarding notification, assessment, and remediation. Not all spills require a homeowner to follow the Contaminated Sites Regulations. You can search “environmental consultant” in an internet search engine, like Google or GoogleMaps.
8. More information for homeowners with fuel spills is available on the Environment and Climate Change website at [Domestic Oil Spills | Contaminated Sites \(novascotia.ca\)](#). More detailed information on aboveground tanks and preparing for severe weather events can be found here [https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/CC\\_petrol\\_storage\\_aboveground.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/CC_petrol_storage_aboveground.pdf).