

## FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT REBATE

### 10 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Why should I remove or close down my underground fuel tank?

Answer: Your drinking water is underneath your property. If your fuel tank begins to leak, your drinking water and that of your neighbors, becomes contaminated. If you are on public water, surrounding properties may contaminate your well station.

2. How can I tell if my tank is leaking?

Answer: You won't. The Suffolk County Department of Health released a study that stated tanks seventeen (17) years and older have a 50% chance of leaking.

3. How many of us have underground tanks?

Answer: It has been estimated that as many as 5,000 underground fuel tanks exist in East Hampton.

4. Are you requiring me to do this?

Answer: No. This is a voluntary incentive rebate program. If you choose to close or remove your buried fuel tank, you will receive \$500.00 to \$700.00 from East Hampton Town.

5. What is the difference between closing my tank and removing it?

Answer: If you choose to close your tank, it stays in the ground while commercial fuel tank retailers siphon off any oil, inject foam, sand or another inert substance and close it up. Removal requires the tank to be dug up and put in an acceptable storage area off site.

6. How much do these procedures cost, on average?

Answer: Of course, it can depend on outside factors, but basically it costs \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00.

7. Where can I put my new fuel tank?

Answer: You may place it in your basement (with a drip pan if your floor is earthen) or outside next to your home. The tank should be double-walled.

8. What if I don't do anything to my underground tank?

Answer: Currently most home insurance policies are taking a dim view of underground fuel tanks. If fuel tanks are permanently closed or above ground the homeowner will have more options and better costs and coverage. If the

underground tank starts to leak, your insurance company may cancel your policy. Some banks will not agree to mortgages if the tank you are using is not above ground.

9. How long do I have to make a decision?

Answer: This local law is in effect for two (2) years upon adoption. The Town has provided \$350,000 for rebates. This should cover 700 homes. The money is available on a first come, first serve basis.

10. What is the procedure for securing rebates?

Answer: See rebate procedures at this web site – [www.town.east-hampton.ny.us](http://www.town.east-hampton.ny.us)