

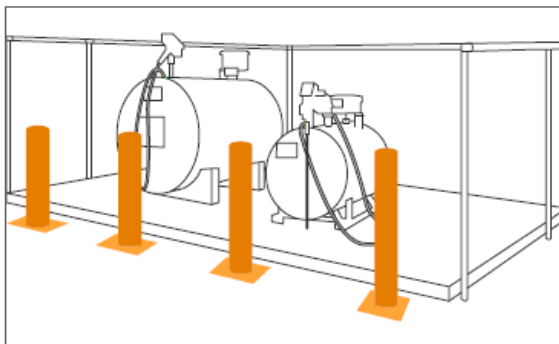
Environmental Loss Control

Above Ground Storage Tanks

May 2026

Best Practice Tips for Above Ground Storage Tanks

- All tanks should be ULC approved for the intended use.
- Tanks should be double walled, with interstitial monitoring.
- Tanks should be located on a non-porous pad (concrete, etc), ideally, with a berm capable of containing at least 110% of the full volume of the tank.
- Physical barriers (like concrete posts) to prevent collisions should be present around the tank.
- Spill response kits should be near the tank and stocked with appropriate materials for the tanks' contents (hydrophobic, water soluble, chemical).
- Items such as spill trays, funnels, and splash guards can be helpful to stop or catch small spills while loading or dispensing from tanks.
- Dispensing systems on tanks should be positive displacement type and should have self-closing nozzles. Manually operated handpumps also help reduce spills due to inattention.
- Employees should be trained on the specific liquids in question, and any issues that leaks or spills can cause. Training programs should include annual updates and periodic refreshers.
- Training should include general safe storage and handling procedures, as well as specifics related to the tanks and liquids in question, as well as any unique logistics of the site.
- Regular inspections should be scheduled to ensure that all tanks are properly maintained with no signs of degradation or damage.
- Automated continuous tank monitoring systems can reduce risk by indicating leaks in tanks and lines. When present, employees should be trained on how to use the system.



An example of above ground tanks that are properly protected from collisions and are located on a pad.

Note: These tanks would also need spill containment, fire protection if the contents are combustible, and spill response equipment nearby.