



FYI FROM TOPTANX - NOVEMBER 2013

Inspecting And Maintaining Sumps And Spill Buckets

The EPA has recently released guidelines meant to help UST owners and operators prevent releases from sumps and spill buckets, a common source of releases.

What is a sump?

A subsurface area that provides access to the equipment located below ground. Contained sumps are designed to prevent releases into the environment by having sides, bottom and a cover to be airtight and avoid water seeping into them.

Types of sumps:

Turbine Sumps – Turbine sumps are designed to provide access to the turbine area above the tank. The turbine area may house the submersible turbine pump head, piping, line leak detectors, interstitial monitoring devices, wiring, and other equipment.

Dispenser Sumps – Dispenser sumps are designed to provide access to piping, flex connectors, shear valves, and other equipment located beneath the dispenser.

Transition/Intermediate Sumps – Transition/intermediate sumps are less common than other sumps, but can be found along the piping runs that connect the tanks to the dispensers, and are designed to provide access to the piping.

What to look for when inspecting your sumps:

- Are The Lids Tight And Sealed Correctly?
- Are The Sump Walls Intact?
- Is The Sump Free Of Debris, Liquid, Or Ice?
- Is The Sump Free Of Cracks Or Holes?
- Are Sump Components Leak-Free?
- Is The Sump Free Of Staining/New Staining?
- Is The Piping And Other Equipment In Good Condition?

What is a spill bucket?

Spill buckets are located where the delivery driver connects the product and/or vapor recovery hoses to your tank to contain drips and spills of fuel that can occur during delivery.

What to look for when inspecting your spill bucket:

- Are The Lids To Your Spill Buckets In Good Condition?
- Is The Spill Bucket Free Of Debris, Liquid, Or Ice?
- Is The Spill Bucket Free Of Cracks Or Holes?

For more information or a copy of the complete guidance document released by the EPA, please visit their website @ <http://www.epa.gov/swerust1/pubs/sumpmanl.htm>