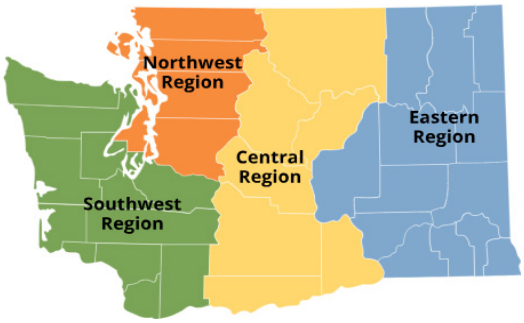
What to Do if Your Underground Storage Tank Has a Leak

Participants enrolled in the Washington State Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA) Financial Assurance Program (FA Program) must report any suspected or known petroleum leaks from their underground storage tank (UST).

How to Report a UST Leak to the Department of Ecology

1. If you have discovered a leak from your petroleum UST, make sure to take the following actions before reporting the leak:
   - Stop the leak and notify others in the area of the leak.
   - Shut off any ignition sources, including cigarettes.
   - Contain the spill.
2. Report the release to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) within 24 hours of discovery.
   - **Report by phone or email:** The person you report the release to depends on the region where your UST is located. You can find the appropriate person to contact on Ecology's website at: https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Contact-us/Region-contacts
   - **Report online:** Alternatively, you can report the leak by filling out Ecology's Statewide Environmental Reports Tracking System (ERTS) form online at: https://ecology.wa.gov/footer-pages/report-an-environmental-issue/statewide-reporting-form-erts

   Reports submitted to Ecology's regional contacts or through the ERTS form are only monitored during business hours. **If your leak is an emergency, contact the Washington State Emergency Management Division at: 1-800-258-5990.** See additional reporting requirements for leaks that impact water in the box to the right.
3. When you report your leak, Ecology will assign an ERTS tracking number to your leak's record. Make sure to keep a record of this tracking number.
4. File a Financial Assurance Request (FAR) with PLIA to receive FA Program funding to clean up the leak. You will be asked to provide the ERTS tracking number for the leak along with additional identifying information provided by Ecology.



Ecology Regions (Source: Department of Ecology)

Reporting a Petroleum Leak that Impacts Water

If a leak from your petroleum UST is likely to have an impact on drinking water, you need to report the leak immediately to reduce impacts to human health and the environment.

Once you have contained the leak, report the leak immediately to both of the organizations below:

- Washington Emergency Management Division: 1-800-258-5990
- National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

If your UST is regulated at the federal level, immediately report a release to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 206-553-6708.

Washington State
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