

Selecting a certified contractor to install, close, or repair underground storage tanks

Minn. R. ch. 7105 requires anyone who installs, repairs, or closes a regulated underground storage tank (UST) to be certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). USTs represent a considerable financial investment. Since owners and operators are responsible for the tank system, selecting a qualified contractor is critical. This fact sheet provides strategies to make an informed decision when selecting a contractor.

Regulations that apply to you

Find out what you are required to do as the tank owner and operator. Make sure it is clearly stated in any contract who will be responsible for each tank requirement.

If you are not sure about the UST regulations, fact sheets are available.

Research certification

The MPCA can provide you with a list of certified contractors. The MPCA does not endorse or guarantee any work performed by these companies. This list specifies the type of work the contractor can perform.

Research work experience

Contact several contractors from the list and determine how much experience or specialized training each has had installing, repairing, or closing the type of tank system that you currently have or plan to construct.

Solicit project bids

Solicit project bids from several contractors. Do not just consider the lowest price. Compare various companies thoroughly so you understand what equipment and work you receive for the price negotiated.

Research references

You can get references in several ways.

- Contact other businesses in your industry and ask them to recommend several contractors.
- Contact industry association representatives and ask them to recommend several contractors.

When calling these references, compare their project with your proposed project. Ask these references if they were satisfied with the quality of the contractor's work. Some good questions to ask include:

- Was the client kept informed as the project progressed?
- Were there problems during the project?
- How were the problems resolved?
- Was the final cost for tank work close to the initial estimate?

Need more information?

Visit the UST Program at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/underground-storage-tank-systems>. The site has forms, fact sheets, and other information about USTs and UST requirements.

You can also call the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.