Take the protective measures described in this brochure to monitor and inspect your fuel storage system.

Learn how to inspect your system:

- Petroleum Storage Tank Maintenance, recorded webinar, www.steeltank.com/Education.
- Tank Integrity Management (TIM) online certificate course, www.steeltank.com/Education.

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Relevant resources

- SP131 Standard for Inspection & Repair Underground Steel Tanks, Steel Tank Institute (STI), www.steeltank.com/Publications.

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Poor operations and maintenance procedures for monitoring and removing water from storage tank systems can lead to a number of risks, from fuel quality degradation and resulting poor vehicle performance, to microbial contamination and damage to the entire storage system.

All storage tank systems, both underground and aboveground, constructed of any material, and storing nearly any product—gasoline, diesel, residential and commercial heating oils, aviation jet fuel, and others—may be affected. The potential for damage applies not only to the tank, but also to the entire storage system. And these risks can affect your profits.

Today’s fuels are more susceptible to moisture separation and accumulation. Also, removing lead from gasoline and sulfur from diesel has had the side effect of allowing microbial growth to occur more readily, since lead and sulfur inhibit microbial activity.

Ethanol and biodiesel are important in today’s fueling network. But allowing water to remain in these storage systems can cause fuel separation, fuel degradation, and non-metallic equipment compatibility concerns.

For all these reasons, it’s more important than ever to conduct regular inspection and maintenance of your entire UST or AST fuel storage system.

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**Is your storage tank system at risk?**

- Engine manufacturers have zero tolerance for water in fuel.
- Inspect your storage tank system frequently.
- Check for water with automatic and manual tank gauging.
- Remove and properly dispose of any water found in accordance with industry recommended practices.
- Investigate the source of any water found. Reference the body of resource materials listed in this brochure.
- Audit the fuel or product delivery process and the water content.
- Use water-sensitive filters and watch for slowed-down fueling or dispensing.
- Hire a professional to treat storage tanks with biocide on a regular basis if microbial activity is evident or suspected.
- Employ a qualified professional to periodically examine the inside of the tank.
- Remove water and sludge and periodically clean the tank, in accordance with industry-recommended practices.