Installation Guidelines - Above Ground Storage Tanks

While our polyethylene storage tanks are manufactured to exacting standards using high quality materials, improper handling, incorrect installation or use may result in damage to the tank, its fittings or associated components.

It is the purchaser's and/or installer's responsibility to ensure that the tank is handled, installed, maintained and used correctly, in accordance with the guidelines set out in this document and for its intended purpose.





1 Handling & Unloading

When your tank arrives, it should be inspected for damage before the delivery is accepted. If problems of any kind are noted, you should contact us immediately on ***0800 334 5742*** or (***+44) 01922 716725*** so we can work with you to correct any problems as quickly as possible.

Extreme care should be taken when unloading your tank from the delivery vehicle. ***Please note: standard delivery vehicles do not have the facility to unload your tank.***

Unless agreed beforehand, it is the site's responsibility to unload the tank with suitable equipment and personnel.

Unload tanks onto a smooth, flat surface free of sharp objects that could cause damage. Take care to guard against piercing damage from forklift "forks."

The use of a crane and sling straps is recommended to unload large tanks.

Do not allow the weight of the tank to rest on any of its fittings. Do not roll the tank over on any fittings.

TOP TIP: tap water at 4°C has a specific gravity of 1. Therefore, 30,000 litres of water will weigh 30 tonnes.

2 Installation

Tanks should be installed on a smooth, firm and flat surface that supports the tank completely. In almost all cases, a reinforced concrete base offers the best solution.

TANK BASE REQUIREMENTS

We recommend that your tank base is a minimum of 600mm (24") larger than the diameter, length or width of the tank and has a depth of:

DEPTH	TANK SIZE
102mm (4")	***Tanks up to 2,500 litres***
152mm (6")	***Tanks from 2,500 to 10,000 litres***
204mm (8")	***Tanks over 10,000 litres***

DO NOT BACKFILL AGAINST ABOVE GROUND TANKS: THEY ARE NOT DESIGNED TO TAKE WEIGHT IN THIS MANNER

Leave 600mm (24") clearance around all sides for access to any fittings and to allow visual checks or maintenenance. This applies even when excavating a hole in which the tank will be placed.

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Consider the location of the installed tank and be sure you have enough room to carry out any maintenance activities. Polyethylene tanks may contract or expand due to temperature changes, atmospheric conditions and the nature of the contents. Planning is important regarding the space in which your tank is installed and the amount of material that is placed in them.

You should consider the work activities that will take place in the vicinity of the tank and take precautions against accidental contact. Impact with the tank, especially at low temperatures, may result in tank failure. Be sure to secure tanks to guard against movement that could occur from wind, seismic activity, traffic movement, motion of contents or other causes.

To avoid structural failure, certain tanks require support of the sides. Be aware of the properties of your tanks and the contents they will hold. Always consult our technical sales staff on your tank's application. Do not change its use to store liquids for which it was not designed.

Your tank is not designed to support any heavy load (including soil), the weight of machinery or equipment. Do not mount such items on the the tank or on its fittings.

If it is necessary for workers to enter the tank, great care should be taken to guard against asphyxiation or breathing of hazardous vapours and fumes. Take appropriate safety advice and precautions and wear PPE.

THIS GUIDANCE COVERS ABOVE GROUND TANKS ONLY. SEPARATE GUIDANCE IS PUBLISHED FOR BELOW GROUND TANKS

3 Fittings and Accessories

Be aware of the type of fittings used on your tank. Hand tighten plastic bulkhead fittings. If they are over-tightened, the fittings may leak.

It is important that the weight of fittings, valves, pipes and other accessories are fully supported from underneath. Fittings and tank attachments should not support any extra weight. As different materials expand and contract at different rates, expansion joints should be used to accommodate those differences and prevent damage.

Care must be taken with the installation of accessories. Consult our documentation and website for available fittings and accessories.

4 Tank Use

Only use your tank for the express purpose for which it was created. Do not apply contents under pressure or create a vacuum unless the tank is specifically rated for that use. Make sure that the materials you store in the tank are appropriate for the properties of the tank, its fittings, gaskets and accessories.

5 Before Using the Tank

We recommend you test your installation by filling the tank with water before you put it into use as a final check to verify the integrity of the tank and its fittings.



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