

# IMPORTANT HOMEOWNER SAFETY INFORMATION

## Seasonal-Unoccupied Homes

No matter how you heat your home, maintaining inside temperature at a safe level is critical. No heat in unoccupied/seasonally occupied homes can cause expensive losses. Frozen and broken pipes can flood a house in hours causing structural damage to the home and loss of personal property. Please remember that you have a responsibility to protect your home against damages arising from loss of heat.

We advise to always arrange for the supervision of your home when you plan to be away for any length of time. Have someone check the home and heating system daily and visit more frequent during cold weather.

## Unprotected Fuel Lines

We would like to make you aware of a potential problem that can occur with unprotected fuel lines. When soft copper fuel lines are in direct contact with concrete, they corrode and deteriorate faster than normal and may result in a fuel leak. Fuel leaks that go unattended can cause damages to your property & the environment, and require costly cleanup.

Replace unprotected lines with sleeved or coated copper lines to avoid fuel leaks due to degraded fuel lines.

Please contact us to perform any necessary upgrades to your fuel line.

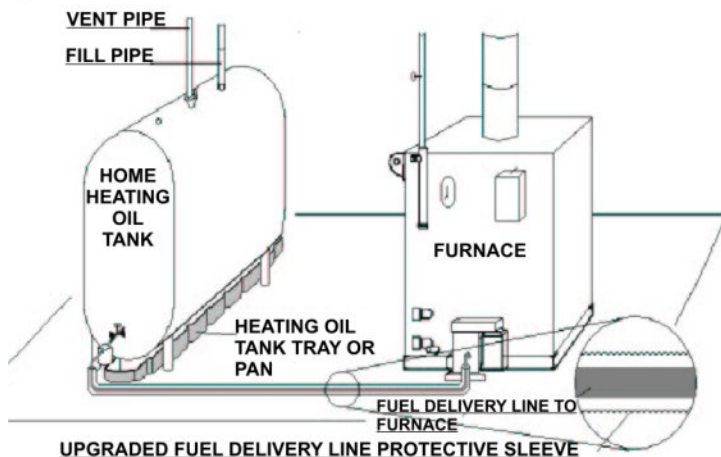
## Tips for maintaining your Home Heating System

Your heating system is no different than your vehicle. Regular maintenance is the key to preventing problems and increasing performance on any mechanical device.

Every year you should:

Have Scott Smith & Son service the burner & unit on an annual basis. A well-maintained heating unit achieves lower fuel consumption and cleaner emissions. Our technicians also inspect the fuel tank and fuel lines for signs of degradation or failure. Occasionally visually inspect the fuel tank, fill & vent piping, and fuel line(s). If a leak is detected please notify us as soon as possible. Older heating systems are more vulnerable to failure and lower heating efficiency. Upgrading to modern fuel burning equipment can increase efficiency and reliability.

TYPICAL ABOVE-GROUND HOME HEATING OIL SYSTEM



## Prevent Leaks and Spills

Cleaning up oil leaks from home heating systems can be expensive. The cost can range between \$20,000 and \$50,000, with some cleanups costing significantly more. Help prevent leaks & spills, protect the environment and your property.

When appropriate:

- Remove any abandoned fill and vent pipes immediately. Please contact us if you remove your fuel tank.
- Replace buried fuel line with sleeved or coated copper line. If the line is in concrete or ground and not visible for inspection it can be difficult to identify leaks
- Replace the fuel filter canister if it shows any signs of degradation or if it is older than 10yrs.
- Fuel tank must have a vent alarm or whistle installed. Our delivery person uses the whistle to safely fill the fuel tank and avoid overfilling or spilling fuel.

- No plastic or copper fill pipes. Fill & vent pipes should be a minimum of 1 1/4" threaded metal pipe. Plastic vent pipes should be avoided.
- Clearly mark the location of an underground tank's fill pipe. This ensures that the delivery person puts fuel in your tank and not in your septic system.
- If you suspect a problem with the fuel tank, fill pipe, vent pipe, or vent alarm, please contact our office for repair prior to your next delivery.

Additional Tips:

**Outside Tanks**

We recommend using kerosene in all fuel tanks located outdoors. Fuel oil can begin gelling at 32° F. Even blended fuel or "Mix" can gel in extremely low temperatures. One emergency service call can cost more than the cost difference of using kerosene over fuel oil in outside tanks.

**Tanks On The Ground**

Your fuel tank's bottom should not be in contact with the ground; regardless if it is indoors, or outside. Direct contact with the soil increases corrosion of the tank and makes it difficult to identify leaks.

**Alternate Heat & Fuel Delivery**

If you are on automatic delivery and use alternate heat, please notify us and continuously monitor your fuel supply. Using alternate or supplemental heat (space heaters, coal stoves, wood stoves, etc...) can significantly affect Scott Smith & Son's automatic delivery system calculations and can cause an out of fuel situation.

If using alternate heat, don't forget the rooms that are closed off from its direct heat! If you have baseboard, radiators, or domestic water lines in those rooms they may freeze; resulting in broken pipes & possible water damage.

Please call 607-687-1803 for more information