

After extensive research and testing, NORA has determined that transferring fuel oil from an older installed fuel tank to a newly installed tank is not recommended, even for non-metallic tanks.

Transferring fuel from an existing, installed tank into a newly installed tank, commonly referred to as “pumping over” can lead to system breakdowns and reduce the lifespan of the new tank

Pumping over is prohibited by major tank manufacturers and warranties may be compromised. Additionally, NFPA 31, the *Standards for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment* states “The installation shall be made in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions...”

Attempts to filter the fuel before pumping it into the new tank may make it look “cleaner” and reduce the amount of sludge and particulates that are transferred. It does not remove the contaminants that lead to premature system and tank failure.

Why can’t the existing fuel supply be reliably transferred to the new tank?

Water, sludge and biological contaminants may be

transferred to the new tank, even when pumping from several inches from the tank bottom.

Any transferred water and sediment and biological contaminants will likely result in oil burner breakdowns such as fuel line, filter, fuel unit strainer and nozzle plugging.

Transferred water into a new tank also enables the growth of microbes which leads to accelerated corrosion within the new tank and premature failure. Corrosion can also occur within the fuel system piping and components such as filters and fuel units.

What alternative is there to disposing of the existing fuel in the tank being replaced?

While there are ways to allow the customer to use the existing fuel on-site before installing or commissioning a new tank through the use of temporary tanks or drums, be aware that all temporary installations must still meet code requirements.

CONCLUSION

It is strongly recommended that a fresh fuel supply be delivered to the new tank to minimize future service needs, maximize the life of the new tank and improve customer satisfaction.

Examples of manufacturer prohibitions on “Pumping Over”.

