

Excavation Guidelines for Underground Propane Tanks

Proper excavation is the essential first step in the proper installation of an underground tank. Improper excavation can jeopardize the installation and can potentially lead to a hazardous gas leak.

Warning: The installation of underground LP gas tanks is governed by the LP Gas Code (NFPA 58) and must always be done by a qualified professional. Installation of tanks by unqualified persons can potentially lead to a hazardous gas leak. Be sure to call Digsafe before digging: 888-DIG-SAFE (334-7233).

Tank Size	120 Gal.	320 Gal.	500 Gal.	1000 Gal.
Tank Dimensions	5' 6" x 24" diameter	9' x 32" diameter	10' x 38" diameter	16' x 41" diameter
Weight (approx.)	252 lb.	588 lb.	921 lb.	1731 lb.
Hole Dimensions *	9' 6" L x 4' W x 44" Deep	13' L x 4' 6" W x 52" Deep	14' L x 5' W x 4' 6" Deep	20' L x 5' 6" W x 4' 6" Deep
Below the Tank-all sizes	Six inches of sand in the bottom of the hole .			
Prior to Back-filling	One 17 lb. Anode bag connected to tank. Place at least 2' away from tank and low in the hole. Pour 1 gallon of water on bag and immediately cover with sand.			Same procedure - using 2 Anode bags.
Back-fill **	Once tank is place and inspected by the local AHJ, if required, back-fill the entire hole with sand. Grade downward and away from housing dome. This prevents water from collecting and running into or standing around the housing dome.			
* If a concrete pad is required, depth of hole must be 6" deeper to accommodate a 6" concrete pad in the dimensions of the tank with 4 anchor eye bolts (one in each corner of the pad). Attach stainless steel or similar strapping from lifting lugs down to eye bolts.				
** Touch up any scratches or marks on tanks or lifting lugs with proper coating materials before back-filling. Be sure to keep at least half of riser (dome) above ground. Marking the halfway point before back-filling is helpful, especially if finishing with top soil. Filling in more than halfway can cause future water/freezing problems and must be avoided.				
Gas Line Trench Specifications: The trench for buried coated copper tubing or polyethylene pipe and tubing shall be installed with a minimum 12 in. of clean fill or sand. Do not backfill until inspected by the local AHJ, if required. The minimum cover shall be increased to 18 in. if external damage to the pipe or tubing from vehicles is likely to result. Tracer wire (required for PE pipe & tubing only) along with yellow caution tape (<i>Caution Gas Line Buried Below</i>) shall be properly installed by a qualified service technician.				

Tank Dome - Half of the dome must be above the ground.
 Grade downward and away from dome.

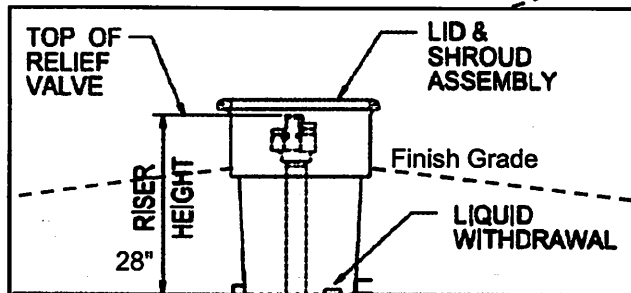
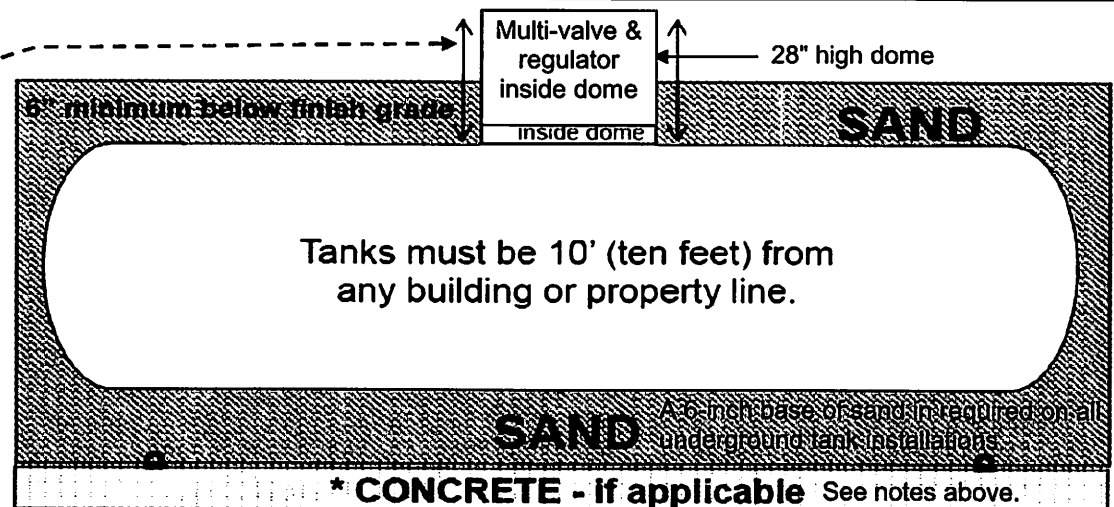


fig. A. Detail of dome



A 6-inch base of sand is required on all underground tank installations.