

General Maintenance Tips

- Regular maintenance ensures a long, useful life for your aboveground storage tank.

Water and Sludge Inspection

- Monthly inspections are essential for detecting **water** accumulation at the bottom of the tank. See STI information page for full details [Keeping Water Out of Your Storage System – STI/SPFA](#) . To help detect water in your tank, use a water-finding paste on a wooden gauge stick. The paste changes color to indicate presence of water. Do this monthly or bi-monthly and you'll have peace of mind.
- Visually inspect for sludge. Cameras can be used as well. Your wooden gauge stick may have residue that could indicate sludge. Annual inspections are advised. Tanks with appreciable sludge should be professionally cleaned.

Exterior Care

- Inspect the tank exterior annually for coating damage. Touch-up nicks as needed. If re-coating is necessary, contact Southern Tank for coating system recommendation.

Top Connections & Rust Prevention

- Inspect all top connections for rust. Threads will rust and will stain the tank if not addressed. If that happens, clean stains with soap and non-scratching cloth or sponge and rinse with water.
- Check all vents to make sure there is no blockage from ice/snow, debris or bugs!

Monthly Walk-Around Inspection

- Check for product leaks at valves and connections.
- For double-wall tanks:
 - Remove and inspect the interstitial probe or gauge annually. If using a manual gauge, call for replacement of the top if cracked or broke.
 - Remove any condensation found in the interstice by removing the 1" plug installed in your Southern Tank double wall.

Additional Notes

- If your tank has an internal lining, you should follow the coating manufacturer's inspection guidelines or have it professionally inspected.

- These inspections may not apply to tanks storing non-petroleum products but those should be maintained as well to ensure a long life for your tank.