

Advice to Home Owners

Are you buying or selling a house you know or suspect may be affected by contamination?

If you are buying or selling a house then your Solicitor should have considered contamination as part of the conveyancing process. This may have resulted in them contacting a commercial organisation or the Council for information. In most cases, contamination will not be an issue but in a minority of situations it may raise itself as a concern. St Helens Council has identified several thousand sites of potentially contaminated land and of those only a handful have so far been declared Contaminated Land.

If you wish to find out more information about a particular site then the Council offers an Environmental Enquiry Service where you can request information about potentially contaminated land and a range of other factors that may effect the site.

Are you concerned about substances you store at your property might contribute to contaminated land?

If you have heating oil tanks, large stores of chemicals or fuels on your property or have had in the last then there is a small chance these could cause contamination of the ground. Contact us for if you would like any more information. A new piece of legislation called the The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 places control on the storage of fuel. The regulations affect you if you store oil in containers greater than 200 litres, above ground at an industrial, commercial or institutional site, or if you store more than 3500 litres of oil at a domestic property.

The Environment Agency is responsible for enforcing these regulations in England. They can give you advice and guidance to help you get your storage facilities up to scratch.

Have you been asked to carry out a risk assessment on a piece of land as part of a planning application you have submitted to the Council?

Consult the Advice to Developers document on the [Contaminated Land home page](#) and also the Risk Assessment for more information.

Home Information Packs - How do they impact on you?

More information on Home Information Packs can be found at the following websites:

- [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)
- [Home Information Packs - Government website](#)