

Soil Matrix Cleanup

- The Soil Matrix cleanup level is the allowable level of petroleum in the soil that the DEQ considers “clean.”
- Most sites in the Portland area have a cleanup level of 500 ppm and removing impacted to less than 500 ppm is considered a “Soil Matrix Cleanup.”
- The DEQ requires the removal of any free-product (oversaturation of petroleum in soil, typically over 60,000 ppm).
- Removing soil or other assessments are not usually necessary if initial samples are below 500 ppm; however the DEQ requires the tank to be decommissioned, then a Certification, a report & a fee to be sent to the DEQ.
- Often removing all the impacted soil is not cost effective or feasible (beneath the building, permeated deeply, beneath a water table, etc. In these instances usually enough soil is removed to allow the site to be closed by performing a risk assessment to determine if the site poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.
- Petroleum-impacted soil is not considered a “Hazardous Waste”; however, it is classified as a “Non-Hazardous Specialty Waste.”
- Removing soil requires a Waste Disposal Permit to properly dispose of petroleum-impacted soil at a properly accredited landfill. There are several landfills that accept petroleum-impacted soil throughout Oregon and Washington. We recommend contacting local landfills close to you to find the nearest landfill allowing Specialty Waste.
- Most petroleum-impacted soil in the Greater Portland Area is disposed at the Waste Management Facility in Hillsboro, Oregon. The following is a link for Specialty Waste at the Hillsboro Landfill:

<http://wmnorthwest.com/landfill/landfillcities/hillsboro/nonhazardous.html>