



## Below Ground Tanks Frequently Asked Questions

### [What is the warranty on your tanks?](#)

The tanks shown in the Water & Waste section of our website carry a three year warranty from date of manufacture. Should a defect appear within the warranty period, Norwesco will supply a new, equivalent tank in replacement thereof. Norwesco's liability is limited to the value of the tank itself and specifically excludes the cost of installation and/or removal or consequential damages.

### [Where can I locate the serial number on my tank and how can I tell if my tank is under warranty?](#)

All Norwesco tanks are embossed with a serial number that is 1/2" in height. On a below ground tank you will find the serial number at the "outlet" end of the tank near the edge of the manway. On an above ground tank, you will usually find the serial number near the fill-opening of the tank. If you need a specific manufacture date, please contact your Norwesco distributor.

### [What material is used to make your above ground water tanks & below ground cistern tanks?](#)

Norwesco uses a linear, high-density polyethylene resin that provides outstanding environmental stress crack resistance. The resin is UV stabilized but by keeping an above ground tank sheltered or indoors you will prolong the life of your tank.

### [Are your above ground water tanks & below ground cistern tanks FDA approved and is it safe to store water in these tanks?](#)

Yes, it is safe to store water in the Norwesco above ground tanks and below ground cistern tanks shown on our website. The resin used to manufacture these tanks meets FDA specifications for safe storage of potable water.

### [Are your above ground tanks & below ground cistern tanks NSF approved?](#)

NSF International, founded in 1944 as the National Sanitation Foundation, is known for the development of standards, product testing and certification services in the areas of public health, safety and protection of the environment. Norwesco was the first polyethylene tank producer to receive the NSF61 certification, where applicable, for our potable water tanks.

The NSF61 certification process is done on a plant by plant basis. We currently have tanks that are NSF61 certified in five of our manufacturing facilities: Fairfield TX, Hanford CA, Tooele UT, Washougal WA & Lancaster OH.

### [Does the color of a tank have any significance?](#)

Generally, colors are used to designate one grade or type of tank from another and is for product identification only except for the Black or Dark Green Water tanks. Our standard color for septic tanks is yellow or green; bruiser tanks are light blue and below ground cisterns and above ground water tanks are natural or white. We also offer Black or Dark Green Water Only tanks.

### [What is the maximum temperature that your tanks will withstand?](#)

Polyethylene storage tanks have a maximum storage temperature of 120 degrees F. Contents with a temperature in excess of 120 degrees F - even for a short period of time - can weaken the tank's structural integrity and make it susceptible to deformation and failure.

### [How far should the pipe extend from the inlet and outlet tees?](#)

There is no set distance that applies to all tanks or regions. Prior to installing any septic tank, you should check with your local sanitarian for specific lengths for the inlet and outlet tees.

### [Can I put drinking water in a yellow septic tank?](#)

No, drinking water can only be stored in our below ground white cistern or Bruiser tanks or our above ground tanks.

### [Do Norwesco products require a material safety data sheet \(MSDS\)?](#)

No, Norwesco products are exempt from the MSDS requirements established in the Hazard Communication section (29 CFR 1910.1200) of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Norwesco products are classified as "articles" as referred to in 1910.1200(b)(6)(v) and as defined in 1910.1200(c).

### 1910.1200(c) "Definitions"

"Article" means a manufactured item other than a fluid or particle: (i) which is formed to a specific shape or design during manufacture; (ii) which has end use function(s) dependent in whole or in part upon its shape or design during end use; and (iii) which under normal conditions of use does not release more than very small quantities, e.g., minute or trace amounts of a hazardous chemical (as determined under paragraph (d) of this section), and does not pose a physical hazard or health risk to employees.

### [Can a below ground cistern be used as a septic tank?](#)

Yes. A cistern is produced from the same mold as a septic tank. The difference is that the cistern is produced with approximately 25% more resin to enable it to meet the demands of frequent pumping and emptying. The other noticeable difference is that all Norwesco cisterns are white in color as opposed to the yellow or green used in our septic tanks. The cisterns are not supplied with plumbing. You must drill the appropriate holes and install adapters or gaskets.

### [Is there a direct correlation between the number of bedrooms and the size of the septic tank?](#)

In most state and county regulations or codes there is a direct correlation between the number of bedrooms and the size of the septic tank required. Please check with your local sanitarian or health department prior to purchasing any septic tank.

### [Why do part numbers differ depending upon the state they're being installed in?](#)

Our part numbers reflect the different tanks and their plumbing configurations based on state and local health code requirements.

### [Where can I find the installation instructions for my below ground tank?](#)

The installation instructions can be found under the edge of the lid.

### [You refer to a sand/gravel mixture in your installation instructions. Exactly what type of sand/gravel mixture do you recommend for bedding/backfill?](#)

The sand/gravel mixture we refer to can generically be called a "pea gravel" mixture. It should be 100% smaller than 1-1/2" and approximately 50% smaller than 1/4".

### [Why must I fill a yellow septic tank with water as it's being backfilled?](#)

Filling the tank with water while backfilling equalizes the pressure between the outside and the inside of the tank thus minimizing any possible distortion or movement of the tank. Filling a Bruiser or cistern with water while backfilling is recommended but not required.

### [Can I use a septic, cistern or Bruiser tank above ground?](#)

Norwesco's septic, cistern and Bruiser tanks are designed for below ground use only. Using the tanks above ground can result in deformation of the tank. It is far more cost-effective to utilize one of Norwesco's above ground tanks that are specifically designed for above ground use and applications.