

Question: How do I find out how old my Oil tank is? It has a tag with a serial number on it but no Date. A Resident of Chelsea.

Answer: In about 1980 ULC (United Laboratories Canada) a company that provides the labels for some oil tanks changed their label format from an English script style lettering arranged in a curved pattern to a block style lettering and they include the date of manufacture. Most of the earlier tanks are clearly labelled "FOR INDOOR USE ONLY". In 1991 all oil tank manufacturers were required to put a date on the tank.

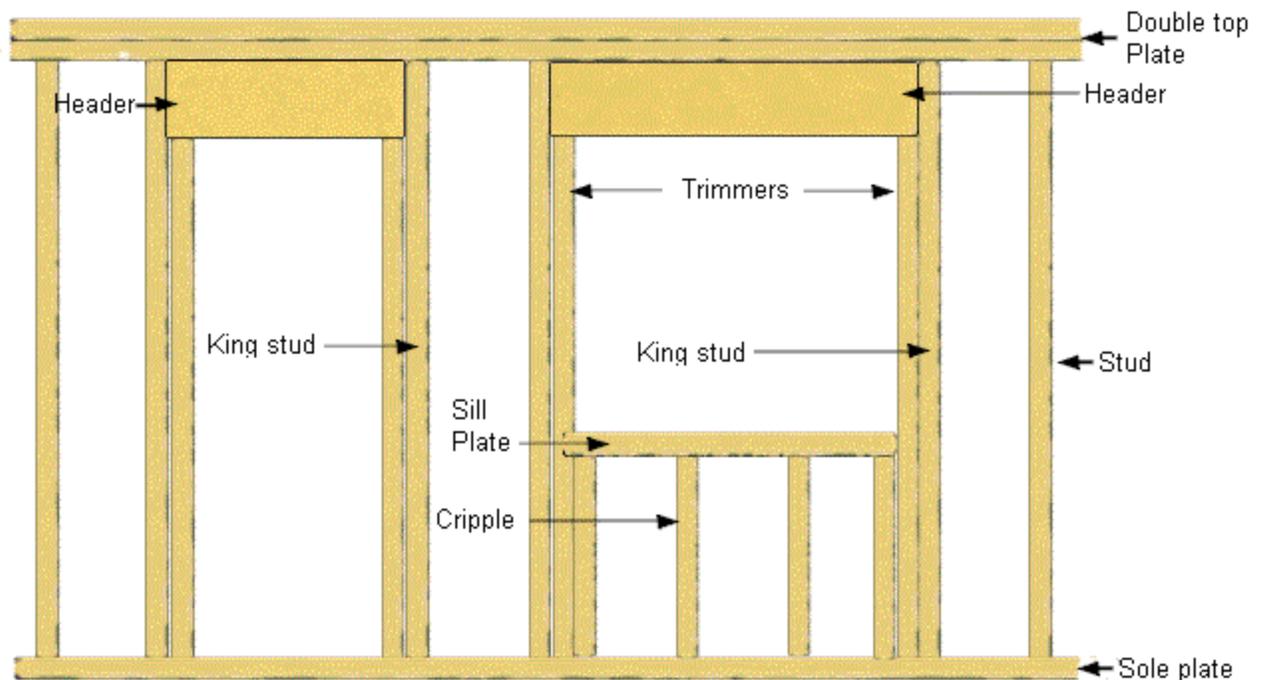
So check this criteria and see if it makes sense to your tank. If your tank is over 25 years old, I would recommend replacing it or at least have it inspected by the proper authority. Your fuel oil provider may not re-fill you if it's older than that without an inspection, which could leave you in the cold.

Question: The water pressure in our house at first seems to be fine but then after a few minutes of use it declines significantly. It is to the point the a regular length shower is problematic. Paul (you know who you are) Chelsea .!!

Answer: There could be a number of things that could affect your homes water pressure. The first thing to check would be the main valve at the pressure Tank. Make sure it is turned on all the way. Its possible that if you had any work done at the house, plumbing related, that the main shut off has not been re-opened all the way. Or maybe the kids, unaware of what they were doing, may have accidentally fiddled with the valve. Try that and get back to me if you need more advice !!!!

Question: I am adding some new windows to the rear of my house. I have been told that I need to build and install a " header " above the window. What is a "Header", and what is its purpose? G. Stevenson, Laselles .

Answer: Yes, you need a header above the window or any opening in a wall for that matter. A header, also know as a Lintel, is a horizontal structural member (a beam) that supports the load over an opening such as a door or window. The lintel is supported by two vertical studs on each side (often referred to as Kings and Jacks) that spreads the load above the window or door to each side. To frame an opening for a door or window without this lintel, you create a weak point in the construction that could sag over time. I have included a diagram of a properly framed wall with openings. I hope this helps.



Components of a framed wall  
Showing rough door and  
window openings

I welcome your questions please forward them to , Inspector Weeks ,c/o Peter Weeks Home Inspections [PWHI@sympatico.ca](mailto:PWHI@sympatico.ca) or by phone at 613.290.3697.

**Peter Weeks** has been a Chelsea resident for 17 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing **Residential Home Inspections** for about three years. He is an Associate Member of OAHI (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB and BNI. **He is a Qualified and Fully Insured Inspector.** You may Visit his Website at [www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM](http://www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM).