

# Propane Safety

Propane is a fuel that is stored as a liquid and used as a gas. Propane is often used to fuel barbeques, appliances in recreational vehicles (RVs), and other portable equipment. Used properly, propane is a safe and convenient fuel. Follow these tips to stay safe.

## Basics

- Never smoke while handling propane.
- Ensure that propane appliances are certified by a testing agency, such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Intertek Testing Services (ITS) or Underwriter's Laboratories (ULC). Certified appliances will be marked with the symbol of the testing agency.
- Only a qualified gasfitter or installer should install, service, repair or replace propane equipment.

## Filling propane cylinders

- Only a certified person may fill a propane cylinder.
- Never ask to have cylinder filled to more than 80 per cent of its capacity. Propane needs room to expand.
- Propane cylinders must be inspected and re-certified every 10 years. Do not attempt to fill a cylinder that is more than 10 years old unless it has been inspected.
- Do not attempt to fill a cylinder that is damaged or corroded.

## Transporting and storing propane cylinders

- Keep propane cylinders in a secure, upright position for both transport and storage.
- Transport cylinders in a well-ventilated space. If transporting cylinders in the trunk of a vehicle prop the trunk open. Never transport a propane cylinder in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.
- Store propane cylinders outside. Never store them in a heated garage, basement, or any occupied space.
- Keep cylinders at least three metres (10 feet) away from any open flame or source of ignition.
- Make sure all cylinders are properly capped, plugged or sealed.
- Empty cylinders should be stored the same way as filled cylinders.
- Return old or damaged cylinders to a propane supplier for disposal.

## Checking for leaks

After connecting a propane cylinder to an appliance, check for leaks using a 50% liquid soap and 50% water solution.

- With the appliance turned off and the cylinder valve open, brush the solution over all connections — bubbles will form if there is a leak
- If you find a leak, close the cylinder valve and contact a certified gasfitter. After repairs are completed, repeat the leak test until there are no leaks.

## If you suspect a leak

- Leave the area immediately and remove any possible sources of ignition, including cigarettes.
- Do not turn lights or electrical appliances on or off and do not use the telephone.
- If possible, shut off the propane supply and leave the doors and windows open.
- Call the fire department from a neighbour's house.

**For more information, please call 1-866-421-6929 or visit [www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss).**