



PROPANE SAFETY INFORMATION

Your safety is important to us! Please read and familiarize yourself with the following important safety information and contact us if you have any questions or require further guidance.

Propane, also known as LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) or LP Gas, is a by-product of natural gas processing and petroleum refining. It is normally transported and stored in a liquid state under moderate pressure for ease of handling in shipping and distribution. When the pressure is released, propane turns into a vapor and becomes usable as a flammable gas. Like other hydrocarbon based fuels, propane must be handled with care, transported properly and stored safely. Propane is flammable when mixed with air and can be ignited by many sources including: open flames, smoking materials, electrical sparks and static electricity.

First And Foremost ... Know The Smell

Propane in its natural state is colorless and odorless. This is why an odorant has been added by wholesalers to enhance safety (i.e. the presence of this odorant alerts you to a potential propane gas leak). To most people, propane smells like rotten eggs or a skunk's spray. Your welcome package from Advantage Propane includes the Propane Education & Research Council brochure titled "Important Propane Safety Information for You and Your Family". Please read, follow and share the safety guidelines it contains. Included in the brochure is a "scratch and sniff" spot with an odor similar to propane. It is strongly recommended that all family members and occupants of the property become familiar with this odor.

Some people may have difficulty smelling propane due to their age (older people may have a less sensitive sense of smell), a medical condition, or the effects of medication, alcohol, tobacco or drugs. In some rare cases, propane can have a diminished odor or may lose its odor entirely. Several things can cause this including the presence of air, water or rust in a propane container or the passage of leaking propane through the soil. **Since there is a possibility of odor loss or problems with your sense of smell, you should respond immediately to even a faint odor of gas.**

Take Immediate Action If You Smell Gas or Suspect a Leak

If you or another occupant should detect the odor of propane, please take these action steps:

1. **Avoid Flames or Sparks.** Immediately extinguish all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones or cell phones as sparks from these sources can trigger a fire or explosion.
 2. **Leave the Area Immediately.** Get all occupants out of the building or area where you suspect gas may be leaking.
 3. **If Safe to Do So, Shut Off The Flow of Gas.** Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank if it is safe to do so. To close the valve, turn it to the right (clockwise).
 4. **Report the Leak.** From a neighbor's building that is away from the gas leak, call Advantage Propane and speak to our representative. If you can't reach us, call 911 or your local fire department for guidance.
 5. **Do Not Return to the Building or Area.** Keep everyone away from the area of the suspected leak until Advantage Propane, an emergency responder or a qualified service technician determines that it is safe to return.
 6. **Get Your System Checked.** Have your entire system checked by Advantage Propane before attempting to use any of your propane appliances.
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Consider the Installation of Propane Gas Detectors

Under some circumstances you may not smell a propane leak should one occur. Propane gas detectors sound an alarm if they sense propane in the air. You should consider the purchase of one or more UL-listed (Underwriters Laboratories) detectors for your home or building as they can provide an additional measure of safety. Follow the manufacturer's instruction regarding proper installation and maintenance. Remember, never ignore the smell of propane, even if no detector is sounding an alarm.

Appliance Safety and Maintenance

1. **Warning!** The slightest modification or alteration to your propane system by unauthorized personnel may cause a potentially dangerous or life-threatening situation.
 2. **Leave it to the Experts.** Only a qualified service technician has the training to install, inspect, service, maintain and repair your appliances. Never attempt a "do it yourself" repair on any gas appliance. The same goes for propane storage tanks (containers) and related system components such as valves, regulators, connectors, and controls.
 3. **Pilot Light Safety.** If a pilot light repeatedly goes out or is very difficult to light, there may be a safety problem. **DO NOT TRY TO FIX THE PROBLEM YOURSELF.** It is strongly recommended that only a qualified service technician light any pilot light that has gone out. But should you decide to light a pilot yourself, be sure to read, understand and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions and warnings beforehand.
 4. **Help Your Appliances to Breathe.** Check the vents of your appliances to be sure that flue gases can flow easily to the outdoors. Clear away any debris that could restrict flue gases such as insect or bird nests. You should also clear the area around your appliances to maximize the air reaching the burner to ensure proper combustion.
 5. **Have Older Appliance Connectors Inspected.** Certain older appliance connectors may crack or break resulting in a gas leak. If you have an appliance that is more than twenty years old, have a qualified service technician inspect the connector annually to ensure it is operating properly.
 6. **Keep Flammables Away from Appliances.** The pilot light on your propane appliance can ignite vapors from gasoline, paint thinners and other flammable liquids. Be sure to store and use flammable liquids outdoors or in an area of the building containing no propane appliances.
 7. **Don't Take Chances.** If you cannot operate a part of your propane system or if you believe an appliance or other device is not working properly, call Advantage Propane or a qualified appliance service technician for assistance.
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Running Out of Gas or Any System Service Interruption (Gas Service Shut-off)

Don't run out of gas as serious safety hazards, including fire or explosion can result.

1. If an appliance valve or gas line is left open, a leak could occur when the system is recharged with propane.
 2. If your propane tank runs out of gas, any pilot lights on your appliances will go out which can be dangerous.
 3. In many states, a propane retailer or a qualified service technician must perform a leak check of your system before turning on the gas.
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Carbon Monoxide and Your Safety

You can't taste or smell Carbon Monoxide (CO), but it is a very dangerous gas produced when any fuel burns. High levels of CO can come from appliances that are not operating correctly, or from a venting system or chimney that becomes blocked or restricted. **CO Can Be Deadly!** High levels of CO can make you sick. Some symptoms of CO poisoning include: headache, dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea. In extreme cases, CO can cause brain damage or death.

If You Suspect Carbon Monoxide is Present, Act Immediately!

1. If you or any other occupant of the building demonstrate the physical symptoms of CO poisoning, get everyone out of the building immediately and call 911 or your local fire department.
2. If it is safe to do so, open windows to allow the entry of fresh air and turn off any appliances you suspect may be releasing CO.
3. If no one has symptoms but you still suspect CO is present, call a qualified service technician to check the CO level and your propane equipment.

Help Reduce the Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

1. Have a qualified service technician check your propane appliances and related venting systems annually (preferably before the heating system begins).
2. Install UL-listed CO detectors on every level of your property.
3. Never use a gas oven or range-top burners to provide space heating.
4. Never use portable heaters indoors unless they are designed and approved for indoor use.
5. Never use a barbeque grill (propane or charcoal) indoors for cooking or heating.
6. Regularly check your appliance exhaust vents for blockage.
7. Have your chimney professionally inspected and cleaned (if needed) on an annual basis.

Signs of Improper Appliance Operation That Can Generate High CO Levels

1. Sooting, especially on appliances and vents.
 2. Unfamiliar or burning odor.
 3. Increased moisture inside of windows.
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Equipment Awareness

1. Know where the propane system's gas supply shutoff valve is located. Tank valves must be turned to the right (clockwise) to stop the flow of gas.
 2. Know where underground gas lines and tanks are located in order to avoid damaging them when digging or working on your premises.
 3. Heavy accumulations of snow, ice or icicles falling from roof eaves on regulators, piping, tubing and valves may cause damage that could result in a gas leak. You should check your external propane equipment after a snow storm or other severe weather event. Contact Advantage Propane immediately if you notice any damage that requires our attention.
 4. Gas regulators have a vent that must remain clear of snow and ice in order to operate properly. It is your responsibility to ensure the vent remains clear and protected from the forces of the elements.
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Propane Tank (Container) Safety

1. Never store a propane container inside a building, including your garage. Containers should be stored outdoors and off the ground on a non-combustible base. The container's vapor service outlet should be plugged.
2. Never store, use or transport a propane container in the passenger compartment of your vehicle.
3. Propane gas containers must be transported in an upright position with the vapor service outlet plugged. This allows the hydrostatic relief valve to remain in the container's vapor space at all times. Only a container designed for horizontal use may be transported horizontally.
4. Any container that is damaged, corroded, exposed to fire or appears to be leaking must be removed from service immediately.

If you have any further questions about propane safety contact Advantage Propane at 908-824-7398.