



# Important Propane Safety Information

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



**NEVER USE AN OPEN FLAME TO LIGHT A PROANE APPLIANCE.** Always use the built-in pilot light or the push-button igniter. Never use a match, lighter, or other open flame to light a propane appliance. If you have a propane appliance that does not have a built-in pilot light or push-button igniter, have a qualified propane service professional install a pilot light or push-button igniter on your propane appliance.

## If You Smell Gas or Suspect a Gas Leak

- NO FLAMES OR SPARKS!** Immediately shut off all smoking materials and do not open flames (candles, space heaters, lighters, matches, or oil flames). Flame sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion in the gas.
- LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY!** Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.
- SHUT OFF THE GAS AT THE TANK.** 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).
- REPORT THE LEAK.** Once you are safely away from the gas leak, call your propane retailer right away. If you cannot reach your propane retailer, call 911 in your local fire department.
- DO NOT RETURN TO THE BUILDING OR AREA** until your propane retailer, emergency responders, or qualified professional determines that it is safe to do so.
- GET YOUR PROPANE SYSTEM CHECKED.** Before you attempt to use any of your propane appliances, your propane retailer or a qualified professional must check your entire propane system to ensure that it is leak-free.

**TAKE THE SMELL TEST**  
Security and safety are the goals. This is a critical propane safety issue. If you are unsure if you smell gas, please call your propane retailer or a qualified professional for a walk-through of the tank.

## Can You Smell It?

Propane has a foul odor that has been compared to garbage, sewage, a skunk's spray, or a dead animal. Some people may have difficulty smelling propane. Causes may include:

- Aging (older people may have a less sensitive sense of smell)
- The effects of medication
- Medical conditions such as colds, allergies, or sinus congestion
- Alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Tobacco smoke, cooking odors, laundry or damp socks, and other strong odors

The propane smell may not wake up someone who is sleeping. It may also be blown away from the building or not be detected, such as a basement, an attic, or a garage.

**ODOR LOSS** is an unintended reduction in the concentration of the odor of propane, making it more difficult to smell. Situations that can cause odor loss include the presence of oil, water, or certain propane tank or cylinder 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 test and monitor for a faint odor of gas.

## Propane Gas Detectors

In certain circumstances, you might not smell a gas leak. Propane gas detectors are designed to detect low levels of propane gas, even if the odor is not detected. It is recommended that you consider installing one or more gas detectors, tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) for use in homes. Detectors can provide an environment of safety. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the detector's sounding an alarm, treating an emergency and air immediately, even if you do not smell propane. Never ignore the smell of propane, even if it is not related to sounding an alarm.

## Carbon Monoxide and Your Safety

**WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)?** You cannot taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it is a very dangerous gas produced from any fuel burner. High levels of carbon monoxide can cause brain damage that is not repairing itself, as there is no warning system or chimney that becomes blocked.

**IF YOU SUSPECT CARBON MONOXIDE IS PRESENT, ACT IMMEDIATELY!**

- If you or a family member shows physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, get everyone out of the building and call 911 in your local fire department.
- It is safe to do so, open windows to allow entry of fresh air, and turn off any appliances you suspect may be releasing carbon monoxide.
- If you have physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, but you suspect that carbon monoxide is present, call your propane retailer or a qualified professional to check carbon monoxide levels and your propane equipment.

**TO HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING:**

- Have a qualified professional check your propane appliances and related venting systems annually, preferably before the heating season begins.
- In a non-vented stove, consider installing carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding gas.
- Never use a generator or range replacement to power a heating system.
- Never use portable heaters indoors unless they are designed and approved for indoors use.
- Never use a barbecue grill (propane or charcoal) indoors for cooking or heating.
- Inspect only the propane appliances and venting for blockage.

## Carbon Monoxide Can Be Deadly!

High levels of carbon monoxide can make you dizzy or dizzy (see below). In extreme cases, it can cause brain damage or death.



**SIGNS OF IMPROPER APPLIANCE OPERATION THAT CAN GENERATE HIGH CARBON MONOXIDE LEVELS:**

- Sooting, especially on appliances and vents
- Unusual or burning odor
- Unusual moisture inside of windows
- Yellow flames

**WHAT IS PROPANE?** Propane is a colorless, odorless gas that is used for heating and cooking. It is a liquid at room temperature and is transported in liquid form under pressure in metal cylinders, which are designed to hold a gas that is heavier than the air. Propane is flammable when mixed with air. Designed and constructed to meet safety standards, propane appliances, including water heaters, water heaters, and tanks, identify "Safety" or "Reverse Flow" or "Return" to prevent backflow or reverse flow of gas into the room with your tank.

## Lighting Pilot Lights

**IF A PILOT LIGHT REPEATEDLY GOES OUT** or is difficult to light, there may be a safety problem. **DO NOT** try to fix the problem yourself. **YOU ARE TAKING THE RISK** of starting a fire or an explosion if you attempt to light a pilot light yourself. It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you call a qualified professional to light a pilot light that has gone out.

Gas can leak through an open gas line. If you disconnect an appliance from a gas line or any other device on an open gas line, be sure to contact your propane retailer or a qualified professional to check, cap, or plug the open gas line.

## Running Out of Gas

**DO NOT RUN OUT OF GAS. SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARDS, INCLUDING FIRE OR EXPLOSION, CAN RESULT.** If your propane tank runs out of gas, any pilot lights on your appliances will go out. This can be extremely dangerous.

**A LEAK CHECK IS REQUIRED.** Many states require the propane system to be checked for leaks before turning on the gas. Contact your propane retailer or a qualified professional to perform a leak check, and turn on the gas.

Never turn the gas on your propane tank. Contact your propane retailer or a qualified professional to check for leaks, turn on the gas, and relight pilot lights on the appliances.

## Appliance Maintenance

**LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS.** Only a qualified professional has the training to install, inspect, service, maintain, and repair gas appliances. Have your appliances and propane system inspected just before the start of each heating season.

**HELP YOUR APPLIANCES "BREATHE."** Check the vents of your appliances to be sure that the gas can flow freely to the outside. Clear away any leaves and nests or other debris. Also, clean the area around your appliances to prevent any blockage of the burner for proper combustion.

**DO NOT TRY TO INSTALL, MODIFY, OR REPAIR** valves, regulators, connectors, controls, or other appliances and/or venting parts. Doing so creates a risk of a gas leak that can result in property damage, serious injury or death.

**HAVE OILER APPLIANCE CONNECTORS INSPECTED.** Certain oiler appliance connections may crack or break, causing a gas leak. If you have an oiler appliance, have a qualified professional inspect the connection. Do not do this yourself, as movement of the appliance might damage the connector and cause a leak.

**FLAMMABLE VAPOURS ARE A SAFETY HAZARD.** A pilot light on your propane appliance can ignite vapours from gasoline, oil, kerosene, and other flammable liquids. Be sure to store and use flammable liquids in a safe area of the building containing no propane appliances.

**DO NOT RISK IT!** If you cannot operate any part of your propane system, or if you think an appliance or other device is not working properly, call your propane retailer or a qualified professional for a replacement.

For more information, please visit [www.propanesafety.com](http://www.propanesafety.com)

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