Propane Cylinder Disposal

Canadian Propane Association | Association canadienne du propane

Propane cylinders should never be thrown in household garbage or recycling containers for roadside pick-up!

Handle Propane Cylinders Correctly

If your refillable propane cylinder has expired, or is rusted, dented or otherwise damaged, it can no longer be filled. These cylinders must be requalified, or disposed of and recycled through the appropriate channels.

Even when you think it is empty, a propane cylinder will still contain some residual propane. Whether you plan to requalify or recycle it, cylinders should always be handled safely and with care.

Disposal Options

Propane cylinders should never be thrown in household garbage or recycling containers for roadside pick-up. In most parts of Canada, provinces and municipalities make Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facilities available to businesses and households.

Check out the listing on the next page for details of government administered cylinder disposal resources in your province.

In many cases, gas stations, retailers who sell new cylinders and outlets that refill propane cylinders will take back expired cylinders, particularly if you purchase a new one. However, this is not mandated and is at the discretion of the retailer.

Camping & Single-Use Cylinders

Manufacturers such as Coleman and Bernzomatic distribute one pound, non-refillable cylinders for use by campers and tradespeople. While handy, these single-use cylinders cause collection and disposal issues for provincial parks and municipalities.

If you need to use these cylinders, remember the following:

- Never leave them at your campsite or dump them in a park.
- Only dispose of them at parks in designated enclosed collection cages.
- Never place them in household waste or in construction/renovation bins.
- Even if the cylinders have been emptied and depressurized using a special 'key', they must still be disposed of through the correct channels – they are still considered hazardous waste.

Cylinder Expiry & Requalification

In Canada, refillable propane cylinders must be replaced or inspected and requalified by a Transport Canada registered requalifier every 10 years. It's against the law to fill an expired or damaged cylinder.

There are identifying marks stamped onto the collar of cylinders showing the original date of manufacture and any subsequent requalification dates. See the CPA fact sheet "Propane Cylinder Markings" for more details.

To find a registered cylinder requalifier in your area, there is a searchable listing of requalifiers available on the Transport Canada website - www.tc.gc.ca - under *Safety > Transportation of Dangerous Goods > Containers > Cylinder Requalifiers.* Select the "External Visual" cylinder requalification method for propane cylinders.

Storage & Handling

Whether full or empty, new or old, always store and handle cylinders outdoors, away from heat or sources of ignition (matches, smoking materials, etc.). Keep them in a secure, well ventilated area, off the ground, on a non-combustible base.

Never store propane containers indoors or in your garage. Never store spare cylinders under or near the barbecue. Never smoke while handling a propane cylinder.

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British Columbia	**Accepted At:** most landfills and transfer stations. **More Information:** Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) – rcbc.bc.ca/
Alberta	**Accepted At:** regular HHW Round-Up events and many municipal transfer facilities. **More Information:** Alberta Recycling – www.albertarecycling.ca,and Recycling Council of Alberta – callcentre.emergeknowledge.com/
Saskatchewan	**Accepted At:** regular recycling days and various collection depots. **More Information**: Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council website – www.saskwastereduction.ca
Manitoba	**Accepted At:** Miller Environmental Corporation facility in Winnipeg and collection events throughout Manitoba. **More Information**: visit – www.greenmanitoba.ca/
Ontario	**Accepted At:** municipal transfer facilities, provincial parks (non-refillable cylinders) and regular collection events. **More Information**: Orange Drop – www.makethedrop.ca/
Québec	**Accepted At:** HHW collection events and some Éco-centres. **More Information:** Recyc-Quebec – www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca
Nova Scotia	**Accepted At:** municipal solid waste HHW drop-off locations throughout the province. **More Information**: visit – www.putwasteinitsplace.ca
New Brunswick	**Accepted At:** regional solid waste management facilities. **More Information**: Recycle NB – www.recyclenb.com/en/recycling/.
Prince Edward Island	**Accepted At:** Waste Watch Drop-Off Centres. **More Information**: Island Waste Management Corporation (IWMC) – www.iwmc.pe.ca/disposalfacilities.php.
Newfoundland & Labrador	**Accepted At:** MMSB collection events and HHW Depots throughout the province. **More Information**: Multi Materials Stewardship Board – www.mmsb.nl.ca/
Yukon Territory	**Accepted At:** In the City of Whitehorse, free HHW drop off days are held regularly. **More Information:** City of Whitehorse – www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca. For all other regions, contact Environmental Programs at Environment Yukon, toll free: 1-800-661-0408 local 5683

*HHW = Household Hazardous Waste, a waste category that generally includes propane cylinders.

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