

Handling & transporting Safety

For Propane Users

Small cylinders are compact and portable - it is no wonder they are used extensively for RVing, camping, and backpacking, not to mention powering outdoor equipment like fire pits and barbecues.

These cylinders are safe when properly used and handled:

- Inspect your propane camping equipment carefully before you leave home. Check for leaks by soaking each fuel cylinder connection with soapy water or leak solution and look for telltale bubbles. If you detect a leak, call your propane supplier.
- Make sure you are familiar with the manufacturers' written operating and maintenance instructions of any appliance that you are using. When shopping for propane equipment for your RV or camping, make sure the product is certified for Canada.
- Do not use portable propane camping equipment in your RV.
- Use propane equipment on a level surface in an open, well-ventilated area away from shrubs or dry wood. Never turn in at night with a stove, cooker or lantern still burning.
- Never smoke while handling a propane cylinder.

Storing Propane Cylinders

- Whether full or empty, new, or old, always store cylinders outdoors, away from heat or sources of ignition (matches, smoking materials, etc.).
- Keep propane cylinders in a secure, well-ventilated area, off the ground, on a non-combustible base, and store in an upright position.
- When storing, disconnect cylinders, plug, or cap all cylinder outlets.
- Never store spare cylinders under or near the barbecue.



Canadian Propane Association
Association canadienne du propane



It is illegal by Canadian law to refill cylinders without proper training.

One-pound cylinder kits manufactured to specification TC-39M, and aerosol containers are being sold in Canada. This kit, which comes with a stand and connectors, is illegal, enabling consumers to unsafely refill a cylinder, regardless if it is designed to be refilled or not.

BUT remember:

Regulation requires:

- Refilling any cylinder must be done by personnel trained for that purpose.
- All propane cylinders are designed to be filled to a maximum 80% capacity for safety reasons, which is not possible with these refill kits. These kits do not have a mechanism to identify if the cylinders are over filled.
- Cylinders known as a 'single trip' or 'non-refillable' cylinder cannot be refilled – it is difficult to distinguish the difference between refillable and non-refillable cylinders. Refilling nonrefillable cylinders is a safety risk as they are not designed to handle the refilling pressure.
- Never attempt to refill cylinders by yourself. Regulation requires proper training to refill the cylinder and that the cylinder is refilled at an approved refilling facility.

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Transporting Propane Cylinders

To bring cylinders home or to camping sites, follow these easy tips:

- Disconnect cylinders and plug or cap all outlets before you go.
- Always carry the cylinder in an upright position with the safety valve on top.
- Never put a propane cylinder in a closed vehicle. If you put it inside the passenger compartment have all the windows open. Placing it on the floor of the passenger compartment is ideal. When in the trunk, block the trunk lid open.
- Never leave a cylinder in a parked vehicle with the windows up. Heat builds up quickly and could cause the cylinder to over-pressurize which may force the release of propane from the cylinder and into the vehicle interior, potentially becoming subject to an ignition source.
- Secure the cylinder in the upright position so it cannot tip over while you are driving.
- Do not transport or use propane containers that are damaged, show signs of corrosion, have been exposed to fire, or appear to be leaking.

Reusable Propane Cylinders

Reusable five-pound cylinders are an eco-friendly alternative to one-pound cylinders for use in camping, barbecuing, heating, torching, and much more. We encourage Canadians to use five-pound cylinders for a few reasons:

- The small one-pound cylinders are typically manufactured and filled from supplies outside of Canada. Although the five-pound cylinders may be slightly larger and heavier, you are supporting your local Canadian suppliers.
- While handy, single-use cylinders cause collection and disposal issues for provincial parks and municipalities, whereas you can refill a five-pound cylinder at a propane refill location.

Disposal of One-Time Use Cylinders

If you need to use one-time use 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.
- If you have to part with a cylinder, return-it to your propane supplier.



Safety 101

Any time you smell propane, here are five simple safety tips to follow:

- **FLAMES OUT** – cigarettes, fires, sparks or electronic devices.
- **PEOPLE OUT** – get everyone out of the building and don't go back in until experts say it is safe.
- **PROPANE OFF** – if it is safe to do so, shut off the main propane supply valve on your propane tank.
- **CALL IN** – call your propane retailer – if you can't reach them, call fire services.
- **CHECK UP** – don't try to use your propane tank or appliances until a qualified inspector has checked out your entire system.

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