

# Patio Heater Safety

## For Propane Users



Canadian Propane Association  
Association canadienne du propane

### Outdoor Living Year-Round

Knowing how to use patio heaters and open-flame appliances safely will help everyone enjoy outdoor dining well into cooler temperatures. Make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience by following these important safety rules when using your outdoor propane heaters or storing portable propane cylinders.

### Use Patio Heaters Outside

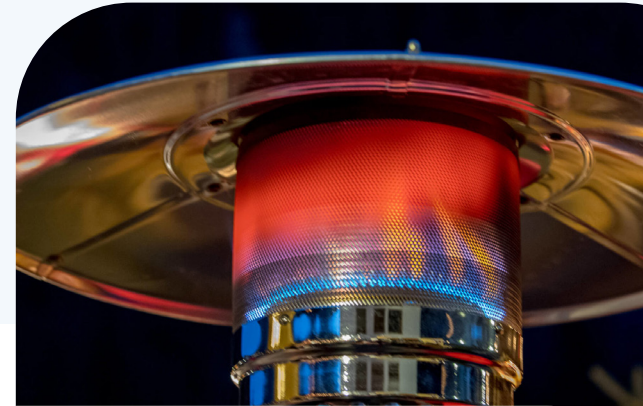
- Use them outside; patio heaters are designed for outdoor use only.
- Propane cylinders should never be stored indoors.
- Cylinders must be stored upright and safeguarded with protection that is tamper-proof and could withstand vehicle impact, such as a locked cage or fenced-in area.
- If you need to store your patio heater indoors for security reasons, remove the propane cylinder first.

### Look Up and Around

- Install the heaters according to the manufacturers' instructions regarding ceiling height clearance and proper distancing from any fire hazards, building openings or mechanical air intakes.
- Fire hazards can be located around, above, or underneath heating units and can include combustible materials such as umbrellas, awnings, tent walls, tablecloths, paper products, decorations, etc.
- Do not position patio heaters next to or in the path of an exit, including fire escapes. Do not obstruct firefighting equipment such as fire hydrants and fire department connections.
- Do make sure that propane cylinders are not stored near operating heaters or smoking areas. A cylinder is considered to be in storage when not connected to an appliance.

### Keep Them Stable

- Make sure heaters are on a stable surface so they do not get knocked over.
- Do not install heaters on grass or an uneven sidewalk, or near the edge of an elevated platform.
- Make sure all free-standing units have an anti-tilt feature.



### Filling propane cylinders – 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 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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### Move Them with Care

- Never move portable heaters while the flame is lit. Make sure the propane supply is properly shut off and the unit cool before relocating.
- Use caution when moving propane cylinders to avoid dropping or impact.
- Make sure heaters are on a stable surface so they do not get knocked over.

### Safety Transport Cylinders

- Disconnect cylinders and plug or cap all outlets before you go.
- 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.
- Always carry the cylinder in an upright position with the safety valve on top.
- Do not transport cylinders in an enclosed space. Open windows, a propped open trunk, or a ventilated truck box are safe ways to transport a cylinder.
- 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.



### 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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