

# Winter Preparedness

## For Propane Users



Canadian Propane Association  
Association canadienne du propane

### Ensure You and Your Family Are Comfortable & Safe this Winter

Winter can mean colder temperatures and a higher demand for energy. Families and businesses that rely on propane can have confidence that Canada's propane industry is prepared for the season, but it is also important for homeowners to do their part to ensure they are kept warm and safe. To help you prepare for colder weather and to save money, here are a few steps that you and your family can take.

#### Before the Winter

- **Fill Your Tank Early** – Since energy demand typically rises in the winter, fill your tank early to ensure that you are ready to go before the cold weather hits.
- **Make sure you have an adequate propane supply** – Ask your propane provider about payment programs and scheduling regular visits so there's always enough propane in your tank. This will help you avoid running empty if inaccessible roads delay deliveries.
- **Consider purchasing a propane generator** – When other power sources fail, a propane generator can keep your house operating without interruption.
- **Confirm your heating system and appliances are running efficiently** – Before the start of each heating season, have a qualified service technician inspect and service your appliances and propane system. When your appliances are running as efficiently as possible, you conserve energy and save money.
- **Replace furnace filters** – Proper airflow improves a furnace's efficiency and lifespan.
- **Reduce drafts** – Install caulking and weather-stripping around windows, doors and other openings such as ducts, fans and vents.

#### During the Winter

- **Ensure that your driveway and access to your tanks are cleared.**
- **Turn down the thermostat** – Manually, or using a programmable thermostat, reduce the temperature a few degrees while you are at home and lower when you are sleeping or away.
- **Reduce hot water consumption** – Lower the temperature setting on your water heater. Consider using cold water for laundry.
- **Keep curtains and blinds open** to receive sunlight during the day, and close them at night.
- **Reduce the use of fireplaces** – If they are only used for secondary heat or atmosphere.
- **Hang clothes on a rack to dry** rather than using your clothes dryer.



#### **Detectors Save Lives!**

- **Install CSA-approved propane gas detectors and carbon monoxide detectors** for additional security. Always follow the manufacturer instructions for installation, location, and maintenance.

#### **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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