

# Camping and leisure safety with LP Gas



## Look before you cook!

Coat your gas connections with some soapy water—if it bubbles there is a gas leak. Tighten the connections and test again. If it bubbles again don't use the appliance—get it checked by a licensed gasfitter.

## Tip

LP Gas appliances need adequate ventilation—**never** use appliances indoors or in a confined space such as a tent or caravan.

For further information go to [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au) or phone ESV on **1800 652 563**.

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# Don't let a gas incident spoil your fun.

## Take care with LP Gas.

Camping, caravanning and the great outdoors are part of the Australian lifestyle but without proper maintenance and care LP Gas appliances such as barbecues, cookers and patio heaters can cause fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. By following some simple steps you can protect yourself and your family.



**Need advice?** ESV's Technical Information Help Line—telephone **1800 652 563**—can advise on LP Gas safety and remedial action if you encounter problems.

## What is LP Gas?

LP Gas is a combination of propane and butane gases. Generally, refillable cylinders contain propane while disposable gas cartridges contain butane. LP Gas is stored as a liquid under pressure and gas escapes can lead to explosions and fires. LP Gas is colourless but has a strong characteristic smell that makes it easy to detect. LP Gas is heavier than air so it can pool in low places and may not disperse easily or quickly. It is also highly flammable and easily ignited. Breathing high concentrations of LP Gas could cause vomiting, headaches and nausea. Always take care when using LP Gas.

## Using LP Gas safely

Portable gas appliances such as barbecues and patio heaters do not require installation by a licensed gasfitter. Always follow the manufacturer's installation and assembly instructions and ensure that all gas connections are done up tightly. Check gas connections regularly for leaks with soapy water. Never use outdoor gas appliances in enclosed spaces such as tents, caravans or indoors.

# Important safety tips

## Maintaining your gas appliances

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when assembling and using your LP Gas appliance—store instructions away for future reference
- Have your portable gas appliance serviced and checked regularly by a licensed gasfitter to ensure it is in good order
- Use only parts that are designed and certified for LP Gas use
- Never use home-made appliances or connections
- Check for leaks with a soapy water solution—if bubbles form, there is a leak

## Safe usage

- Never leave a gas appliance unattended
- Never use a cooker or oven as a heater
- Always ensure adequate ventilation and **never** use gas barbecues, patio heaters or other LP Gas appliances indoors, including tents
- If gas fails to light properly, turn off at the supply and leave for three minutes to allow unburnt gas to disperse
- Keep children away from portable gas appliances and never leave them alone with the appliance
- Keep LP Gas appliances away from combustible surfaces such as tents, umbrellas and shade sails
- Have a fire extinguisher handy—a powder extinguisher is suitable

## Take care with LP Gas cylinders

- Never disconnect a cylinder without checking that the gas has been turned off
- Ensure all gas burners are turned off when exchanging a cylinder
- When exchanging a cylinder, check the rubber O ring or rubber bull nosing, if fitted to your regulator and hose assembly, is present and in good condition
- Never fill a gas cylinder that is past its test date
- Store cylinders outside, secure, upright and away from sources of heat and ignition
- When transporting cylinders carry them upright and supported so they can't tip over

Always follow manufacturer's instructions when assembling and using LP Gas appliances. Seek expert advice from a licensed gasfitter if you think your LP Gas fired camping or leisure equipment may be unsafe.