



LPG in the home

LPG is a highly flammable gas that will burn and may even explode when ignited. Anyone using LPG must know how to handle it safely, where to seek advice and what to do in an emergency.

In the home LPG is used as a fuel for:

- ▶ patio heaters
- ▶ barbeques
- ▶ cabinet heaters
- ▶ hobs and ovens
- ▶ water heaters
- ▶ space heaters and gas fires.

Limits for LPG indoors

The typical portable domestic LPG cylinder holds 9 kg. This is the largest cylinder you are allowed to have inside your home.

If you live in a detached house or an attached house up to three storeys, you are limited to two 9 kg cylinders per dwelling.

If you live in an attached dwelling of more than three storeys, for example an apartment building, you are limited to one 9 kg cylinder.

LPG stored outside

Most fixed domestic LPG heating installations come as a 'Twin pack', that is two x 45 kg cylinders (90 kg) located outside your home. Your gas supplier will exchange the empty cylinders and in some instances may fill the cylinders at your place. You should not change cylinders yourself unless you have received guidance on how to do this safely.

Additional cylinders you may have for a barbecue or patio heater should be kept at a separate location away from your twin pack. If you keep them together you may exceed the 100kg limit.

Fixed gas appliances, including the pipes and hoses from the cylinder valve, must always be installed by a licensed gasfitter.

Homes with more than 100 kg

If you have a fixed LPG installation on your property that has more than 100 kg of LPG, you must get a test certifier to carry out an inspection and issue you with a Location Test Certificate.

If you have more than one building on your property and each building is supplied by an installation with less than 100kg of LPG, you do not require a Location Test Certificate. But each building must be detached, at least 5 metres apart and the area between the buildings must be free of flammable or combustible materials such as firewood or dry vegetation.

If you have one installation that has between 100 kg and 300 kg of LPG then:

- ▶ you must confirm that your supplier will carry out ongoing checks when the Location Test Certificate expires, or;
- ▶ you must continue to use a test certifier to check your gas installation is safe.

If you have over 300 kg of LPG then a test certifier must renew your test certificate. Test certificates will be valid for one year but may be extended to three years. Ask your test certifier about an extension.

Your LPG supplier can only supply your LPG if you have a Location Test Certificate.

**Service your LPG cabinet heaters annually.
Go to www.energysafety.govt.nz for a list of
LPG Service Agents.**



You can find a test certifier in your area by searching the test certifier database at www.epa.govt.nz.

Keeping safe

Portable items include cabinet heaters, patio heaters and barbecues. Cabinet heaters come with safety and health information and labels. It is important that you read and understand this information.

LPG leaks

Even a small gas leak can cause a serious fire. Make sure the appliances you use are safe by doing the following:

Check the connections

Inspect rubber seals, "O" rings and hoses for cracking or deterioration and replace any damaged parts.

Use the soapy water test

Each time you connect a cylinder, apply soapy water to the connections and turn on the cylinder. If bubbles appear, you have a leak.

Use your nose

LPG smells like rotten cabbage. If you can smell it, you have a leak.

Handle empty LPG cylinders with care

They contain vapour and are potentially dangerous.

Protecting people

- ▶ Avoid using any LPG appliance around children with respiratory problems.
- ▶ Stand away from the flame when operating the controls.
- ▶ Always keep your heater at least one metre away from anything that may catch fire.
- ▶ LPG appliance should not be used by children or infirm people. If you have young children or if there is a lot of foot traffic around your heater install a safety guard.
- ▶ When using heaters indoors, keep rooms well ventilated by leaving a window partially open to reduce condensation and allow heater emissions to dissipate.
- ▶ Keep appliance grills and vents clear of obstructions and free of lint and dust.
- ▶ Never use patio heaters or barbecues indoors.
- ▶ Never use your LPG cabinet heater in any bedroom, bathroom or small space.

In the event of fire

- ▶ Dial 111 for the Fire Service and tell them that LPG cylinder(s) are on the premises
- ▶ If it can be done safely, turn off the supply
- ▶ Leave the area

If you smell gas

- ▶ If it can be done safely, turn off the gas supply at the cylinder and turn off all gas appliances.
- ▶ Remove or extinguish potential ignition sources such as naked flames, cigarettes and electrical devices.
- ▶ Do not switch any electrical appliances on or off – this could cause a spark and ignite the gas.
- ▶ Open doors and windows to increase ventilation.
- ▶ If you cannot stop the leak, dial 111 and ask for the Fire Service.
- ▶ Do not reuse any defective cylinder or appliance until it has been tested and declared safe.

Final check

- ▶ Observe the limits for storing LPG indoors
- ▶ Have your cylinders tested at a cylinder testing station every 10 years
- ▶ Ensure you have a Location Test Certificate if necessary
- ▶ Ensure you have a gas certificate for fixed gas appliances



To find out more about storing and using LPG, talk to your supplier or check www.epa.govt.nz



Important contacts

Write the details of your LPG supplier here

Write the details of your LPG service agent here

Write the details of your test certifier here

Energy safety

0508 377 463

EPA Helpline

0800 376 234