



Camping safely with gas

Roughing it no longer has to be part of camping. Portable fridges, barbecues, cookers, outdoor heaters and other portable gas appliances can make camping holidays much more enjoyable.

Beware Portable gas appliances are great outdoors, but lethal indoors.

Without the correct care, maintenance and use, portable gas appliances can cause fires, explosions and produce lethal carbon monoxide.

The following information and safety tips can help protect you and your family when camping.

Safety tips

- Never use an outdoor gas appliance inside a tent, semi-enclosed area, caravan, RV or indoors.
- Keep gas appliances well clear from the outside of a tent or annex as the heat from the appliance may cause the material to catch fire.
- Check connections are done up tightly and check for leaks using the soapy water test.
- Inspect your appliances and cylinders regularly or ask a licensed gas fitter to check they are in good working condition.

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure appliances in use are supported and stable.

Portable outdoor gas appliance safety

- When purchasing a portable outdoor gas appliance look for an approval badge to certify that it is approved for sale in Australia. Further information can be found on the Building and Energy [website](#).
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when assembling and using the portable gas appliance.
- Have your portable gas appliance serviced and checked regularly by a licensed gas fitter.
- Never leave a gas appliance unattended.
- Only use the appliance for its intended purpose. Don't use a cooker or oven as a heater.
- **Never** use an outdoor gas appliance indoors, including tents.

Soapy water test

- Apply soapy water to the cylinder, hose and appliance connections.
- Open the cylinder valve, but do not turn on the appliance.
- If you see bubbles or smell gas, you have a leak.
- Turn the cylinder valve off immediately and do not use until the leak is fixed.
- If no leak is found, rinse off the soapy water with clean water and let it dry.

Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder safety

- Make sure cylinders are within 10 years of test date and in good overall condition.
- Store cylinders outside and away from sources of heat or ignition.
- Check all washers and O-rings on appliances, hoses and cylinders regularly.
- **Never use a flame to locate a leak** – use the soapy water test.
- Ensure cylinders are transported in the upright position and are secured firmly. Do not carry cylinders in the boot of a car or any unventilated area for extended periods.
- Close cylinder valve when not in use.
- Never interfere with or remove the valve on any LPG cylinder.
- Do not turn the gas on until you are ready to light the appliance.
- Always replace the dust cap on cylinders when not in use.
- Adjust the burner to make sure flames do not go beyond the edge of the cooking utensil.
- Do not incinerate disposable canisters. Dispose of them safely at a waste centre. Contact your local council for disposal details.

What is carbon monoxide?

- Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, poisonous gas, which may be produced by faulty, poorly maintained or misused gas appliances.
- Exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide may result in a person experiencing headaches, weakness, fatigue and nausea. At higher levels, symptoms could include severe headache, dizziness, rapid or irregular heartbeat, vomiting, seizures and collapse. In extreme cases this can lead to coma and death.
- You may not know you have been exposed to potentially fatal levels of carbon monoxide until the symptoms of poisoning become severe.
- Portable outdoor gas appliances, such as barbecues and other outdoor gas appliances present a danger of **carbon monoxide** poisoning if used in areas with insufficient ventilation. They must **never** be used inside a tent, semi-enclosed area, caravan, RV or indoors.
- If you experience headaches, nausea or dizziness while using gas appliances, **don't ignore these potential warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning**. Turn off the gas appliances immediately and move to a well-ventilated area.
- In an emergency call 000.



**Department of Local Government,
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This publication is available in other formats on request.

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