

Safety guidance for gas appliances in caravans



Are your gas appliances safe for the journey?

Building and Energy has produced this guide to raise awareness on the safe use and maintenance of gas appliances for your next caravan journey.

Installed gas appliances

What are installed gas appliances?

These are gas appliances installed permanently inside caravans, including gas water heaters, cookers and fridges. These types of gas appliances require an appropriately licensed gas fitter to install and service them.

Are your installed gas appliances safe?

The vibration from the continual movement of the caravan may compromise the integrity of the gas installation or gas appliance.

Gas appliances installed inside caravans must have adequate and permanent ventilation. Ensure ventilation openings, flues and vents are not blocked or restricted.

Get your appliances serviced regularly

To ensure safety, it is important to regularly **engage a licensed gas fitter** to check and service the gas installation and the gas appliance. A service should be completed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, after long trips, or at least annually.

If you notice a change in the performance or operation of your gas appliances, you should also engage a licensed gas fitter.



Faults to look out for:

- A gas cooker not igniting immediately or as intended.
- A gas cooker experiencing oven temperature inaccuracy.
- Rivets or mounting screws securing the gas appliance are broken.
- The smell of gas can be detected, which may signify a problem with the gas supply and/or ventilation.
- Appliances are producing strange noises like clicking, hissing or thumping.

Installed appliance compliance

A compliance badge should be fixed to the caravan in a visible location. This is your confirmation from an appropriately licensed gas fitter that regulatory requirements have been complied with.

Additionally, appliance warning labels should be displayed adjacent to the cylinder and appliance (inside and outside the caravan). It is important to read the safety warnings and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Portable outdoor gas appliances

What are portable outdoor gas appliances?

- Portable gas and mobile appliances are designed for outdoor use only. These appliances include portable gas heaters, portable gas fridges, and barbecues.
- Portable and mobile gas appliances do not require a gas fitter to install them and are connected directly to an LP gas cylinder or gas canister.



Never use portable outdoor gas appliances indoors

Using portable outdoor gas appliances inside caravans may lead to the build-up of carbon monoxide – a colourless, odourless and potentially lethal gas.

Take action if you smell gas

- Turn off the gas supply at the cylinder immediately.
- Extinguish all flames, including cigarettes.
- Do not operate any electrical switches.
- If using an installed appliance, open all doors and windows to ventilate the area and allow any leaked gas to disperse.
- Contact an appropriately licensed gas fitter to identify and fix the source of the gas leak.

Are your gas appliances recalled or prohibited?

This can be checked using the following links:

- Product Safety Australia – [Recalls](#)
- Building and Energy's [unsafe and dangerous gas appliance](#) webpage.

Reporting gas incidents

All accidents or incidents involving gas appliances in Western Australia must be reported to Building and Energy.

This includes near misses, injuries or property damage relating to fuel gas (LP Gas, Natural Gas, CNG, LNG).

Freecall: 1800 678 198 All hours, from anywhere in Western Australia.

**Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety**
www.lgirs.wa.gov.au

Regional Offices:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Goldfields/Esperance | (08) 9021 9494 |
| Great Southern | (08) 9842 8366 |
| Kimberley | (08) 9191 8400 |
| Mid West | (08) 9920 9800 |
| North West | (08) 9185 0900 |
| South West | (08) 9722 2888 |

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www.lgirs.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy

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This publication is available in other formats on request.

National Relay Service: 13 36 77

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 13 14 50