


Home & Cottage Owners Guide to Propane



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Are you a homeowner ready to switch from oil or electricity? Or are you building a new cottage or rural home?

This guide will help you explore propane as an option for your home or cottage.

We'll explain everything you need to know about propane – from how it's made and how it can be used, to the environmental benefits of propane and safety tips for homeowners.

Our goal is to make your transition from oil or electricity to propane simple and worry-free by providing you with everything you need to know about propane.

Why Choose Propane?

Propane is one of the most versatile, cost-effective and environmentally friendly fuel sources in the world, with an abundant supply right here in Canada. It's versatility and portability make it a great choice for both residential and commercial use, and it helps save you money and reduce your home's carbon footprint too!

Propane is:



Versatile – Propane can be used in the home or cottage, outdoors, on farms and in industrial applications.

Cost-effective – Appliances fueled by propane are energy efficient and have a longer life span.

Environmentally friendly – Propane is one of the cleanest burning fossil fuels and does not produce high carbon emissions.

Readily Available – Canada is the 6th largest producer of propane in the world, producing 3.5% of the world's supply.

Good for the Economy – The Canadian propane industry provides 20,000 jobs each year and generates \$9.9 billion to the economy.

Safe – Propane gas is non-toxic. It's not harmful to soil or water and does not endanger the environment.

What is Propane?

Propane is classified as a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). It was discovered in the 20th century as an alternative fuel source that could be easily stored.

Today, more than 48 million households use propane for water and space heating, indoor and outdoor cooking, clothes drying, backup power and more!

What is an LPG?

An LPG is a term used to describe light hydrocarbons called natural gas liquids (NGL). “Liquified Gas” is a unique characteristic of LPGs, contributing to its portability and efficiency.

How is it made?

Propane is a naturally occurring gas that is released from oil fields deep in the earth. It is a by-product of two other processes – natural gas processing and petroleum refining. Propane, a hydrocarbon compound, is separated from other petrochemicals and refined for residential and commercial use.

How Is Propane Stored and Transported?

For storage and transport, propane is compressed in its liquid form. It's stored as a liquid until it is used since it's 270 times more compact as a liquid than as a gas.

After propane is liquefied, it moves through underground pipelines to storage and distribution centres. It is stored in large underground tanks or caverns before it is transported by trucks, trains or barges to local propane dealers. The majority of propane is shipped using a pipeline-truck system.

How is Propane Delivered?

Propane is delivered right to your home or cottage from a bulk propane truck that contains liquefied propane. A pump system is used to transfer propane from the truck into your tank, with a complex series of safety valves and pressure measurements to ensure your tank is safely filled.

Concerned with Global Warming and Your Household's Carbon Footprint?

Choosing propane for your home or cottage can play a major role in fighting global warming. With its tiny carbon footprint and low emissions, propane can help you significantly reduce your environmental impact.

Did You Know?

- Propane is a clean-burning, non-toxic fuel that can safely be used indoors.
- Propane is non-toxic, lead-free, and has extremely low levels of sulphur – a contributor to acid rain.
- Propane produces less than half the Greenhouse Gas emissions than electricity, while its exhaust creates 60 – 70% fewer smog-producing hydrocarbons than gasoline.

Propane Heating and More

Everyone knows propane is great for grilling, but not everyone knows that it has a wide variety of other applications as well. It is one of the most versatile fuel options on the market, and can be used to fuel appliances inside your home or cottage and outdoors.



In your home or cottage, propane can fuel:

- furnaces and boilers
- space heaters
- water heaters
- fireplaces
- refrigerators
- clothes dryers

Propane can also fuel:

- barbecues
- pool heaters
- generators
- portable heater

Switching From Oil to Propane

If you're still using oil to fuel your appliances, you may be putting yourself at risk. Not only are oil-fuelled appliances less effective than propane appliances, you are also liable for oil-tank leaks that may cause significant damage to your home and the environment.

Making the switch from oil to propane will improve your home's efficiency and generate high cost savings. Propane furnaces operate at a 90% efficiency rate, compared to oil furnaces that produce heat at 60% efficiency - this means for every dollar you spend heating oil, you only get about 60 cents worth of heat!

Propane is also a better choice for the environment. It's clean-burning, produces fewer emissions and will not contaminate soil or water in the rare event of a leak.



Propane Safety for Homeowners

1 Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector. Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and tasteless toxic gas produced through the incomplete burning any fuel, including propane and natural gas. Though propane gas contains an odorant (that smells like rotten eggs or skunk) to assist with leak detection, a carbon monoxide detector is the most important safety measure you can take to detect toxic gas.

2 Schedule Appliance Maintenance. Schedule annual maintenance with a qualified service technician to make sure your appliances are operating correctly. Have your appliances and propane system inspected before the start of each heating season.

3 Install a Low Temperature Alarm. If you live in an area prone to cold temperatures in the winter months, a low temperature alarm is a great option for monitoring your propane tank levels. Low temperature alarms monitor the heat level in your home or cottage – if the heat level drops below a predetermined temperature, you will be alerted. This is a great preventative measure, especially in a remote cottage area, that will help you avoid frozen pipes or the potential safety hazards caused by no heat during freezing temperatures.

Propane possesses many characteristics that make it a safe alternative to other fuels including gasoline, diesel and compressed natural gas.

Characteristics of Propane:

- Non-toxic and lead-free
- Odourized for quick leak detection
- Contains extremely low levels of sulphur
- Lowest flammability range of all alternative fuels
- High ignition temperature when compared to other fuels such as gasoline

As with all fuels, proper use and handling of propane is the key to keeping your family safe. There are some simple safety measures you can put in place to stay safe:

Installation Options



Can you paint your tank? Yes! Give your propane tank a face-lift with a reflective, rust-proof paint colour.

There are two main types of propane tanks – torpedo tanks or vertical tanks. The size and style of the tank will be dependent on the estimated amount of propane usage.

Torpedo Style Propane Tanks are typically used for main source heat applications. The benefit of a torpedo style tank is its large capacity which enables for safe, efficient and reliable delivery throughout the harsh winter months.

Vertical Style Propane Cylinders are typically used for intermittent or reduced consumption loads. One benefit of a 420lb is that it can be placed right up to a building or near a property line.

The colour of a propane tank can affect the pressure of gas inside the tank. White propane tanks are the most common, as they reflect heat-generating light away to avoid overpressure situations. These tanks are typically used above ground.

Green propane tanks are typically used in situations where your tank will be buried. The outer surface of underground propane tank requires a protective coating that is covered with a material that will not harm the outer shell of the tank.

Installation Requirements

325-1000 USWG Torpedo Propane Tank Regulations

Torpedo style Propane Tank (325 USWG up to and including 1000 USWG) need to be:

1. Propane Tank
2. A minimum of 10 ft from any building (including garage or a shed)
3. A minimum of 10 ft from any property line
4. A minimum of 10 ft from any source of ignition (pool heater, generator, air conditioner)
5. A maximum distance of 100 ft from wherever the delivery truck could back up to in the winter time

420lb Vertical Propane Cylinder Regulations

Vertical style Propane Cylinders (vertical 420 lb cylinders) or propane regulators need to be:

1. Propane Tank
2. A minimum of 3 ft from any opening into a building (window, doorway, exhaust vent)
3. A minimum of 10 ft from any mechanical air intake (direct vent appliances, some vents for cook ranges HRV's)
4. A minimum of 10 ft from any source of ignition (pool heater, generator, air conditioner)

Customer Reviews

“I am a new customer with your company and would like to say that I couldn't have made a better choice judging by my experience thus far. Everyone that I have dealt with either personally or by phone has been exceptional at providing great service. I would like to especially thank Shawn and Mitch because not only were they very personable, but they took the time to explain the operations of a propane system so that I may have the knowledge to trouble shoot common if rare problems.”

- Kevin Adamson

“Susan & I wanted to say thank you for the fantastic service that we have received from Budget Propane. Quinton & Mike were very polite, courteous, professional & efficient. It is a pleasure to see that there are still trades people that are meticulous about their trade, know exactly what they are doing & work very well as a team. We are very pleased with all staff interactions that we have had & will continue to highly recommend Budget Propane.”

- Bob Wright

Becoming a Budget Propane Customer

Becoming a Budget Propane Ontario customer is easy! We offer many delivery options including automatic, timed and will call with price protection programs to help stabilize your costs throughout the year.

Excellent service at “Budget” prices.

We offer consistently competitive pricing with a variety of payment options including equal billing.

We aim to make your switch to propane simple and worry-free. We will provide you with a free propane quote and will handle the installation from start to finish.

Give us a call today 1-888-405-7777 and we'll help you get started!



Our service area is extensive and includes areas such as:

Alliston, Barrie, Minden, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Haliburton, Huntsville, Midland, Parry Sound, Muskoka, Simcoe County

Ready to make the switch to Budget Propane Ontario?

Give us a call at **1-888-405-7777**
or email sales@budgetpropane.net
to arrange for your **free propane**
quote.

You can also visit us at
www.budgetpropaneontario.com
for more information.