

# Barbecue Safety

## for Propane Users



Canadian  
Propane  
Association | Association  
canadienne  
du propane

### Taking Your Barbecue Out of Storage

At the start of the barbecue season or when you change the propane cylinder, complete this three-step safety check:

1. **Clean:** Use a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure burner ports are free of rust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
2. **Check:** Examine the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
3. **Test:** Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection and/or replace the damaged parts and retest. Never use matches or lighters to check for leaks. If you have concerns about a leak, contact a qualified service technician.

### Using the Barbecue

Follow these steps when igniting a barbecue:

1. Open the lid.
2. Open the propane cylinder service valve.
3. Turn on grill/burner valves or heat settings.
4. Take a step back.
5. Push the igniter button. If there is no igniter button, insert a long match or barbecue lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob.
6. If the burner does not ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the lid open, before repeating the procedure.

Follow these steps when you are finished barbecuing:

1. Turn gas valve off first when finished, then turn off the burner controls, so no gas is left in the connecting hose.
2. Allow the barbecue to cool completely before closing the lid or covering.

### Keep it Outside!

Barbecues are approved for outdoor use only. They emit carbon monoxide (CO), a colourless, odourless gas that is dangerous in enclosed spaces, and can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Never barbecue in a garage, tent or other enclosed space.

Always use and store your barbecue and propane cylinders outdoors, upright, in a stable, well-ventilated area.

### Barbecue Do's and Don'ts

DO...

- ✓ Keep loose clothing away from a hot barbecue.
- ✓ Keep children and pets at a safe distance.
- ✓ If you suspect a leak or the barbecue is not working correctly, contact a qualified service technician.
- ✓ Position your barbecue away from wooden fences or walls.
- ✓ Ensure the area behind your barbecue is free of combustible material.

DON'T...

- ✗ Leave the barbecue unattended when in use.
- ✗ Allow grease to build up on the burners or at the base of the barbecue, as this could cause a grease fire.
- ✗ Throw water on a grease fire – this will only spread the flame.
- ✗ Use lighter fluid or accelerants on the grill.
- ✗ Store or place spare cylinders near the barbecue, or near sources of heat or ignition.
- ✗ Store or use a barbecue on your apartment balcony, unless authorized.

### Cylinders – Know the Rules

- Only a qualified individual may fill your propane cylinder. If you are unsure, ask to see their certification or record of training.
- In Canada, propane cylinders must be replaced or inspected and requalified every 10 years. It is against the law to fill an expired or damaged cylinder.
- Never throw propane cylinders in household waste or recycling containers. Contact your municipality regarding disposal options.