

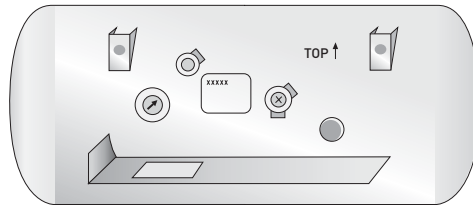
## PROPANE CONTAINERS

There are 2 types of propane containers commonly used on a RV:

### CYLINDER



### TANK



Containers should never be overfilled as this could result in liquid propane releasing from the pressure relief valve, or propane liquid entering the piping system resulting in higher than normal pressure to the appliances. Most propane cylinders are vertical (upright) style with the vapour withdrawal valve mounted on the top. Horizontal cylinders and permanently mounted tanks are available, but they are not to be substituted for vertical cylinders. It is unsafe to use the wrong type of container. Always use the propane container in its proper position. Arrows indicating the correct position may be on the container. A propane dealer can confirm that you are using the right type of container.

## BUYING A USED RV?

Whether you are buying a used RV from a dealer or from a private individual, always look for a BC Safety Authority decal confirming that the RV propane system has recently been safety checked. The decal is installed after a comprehensive propane system safety inspection has been completed and necessary repairs made by a technician with a current *Recreation Vehicle Installation and Service Certificate of Qualification*.

The safety inspection is recorded on a BC Safety Authority form *Propane System Re-Certification Check List* and the completed form should be available with the vehicle.



The Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia (VSA) requires all dealers to ensure that vehicles are safe before being sold, including that propane systems on used RVs have been recently re-certified. Many VSA dealers and Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of BC (RVDA of BC) members have an operating permit from the BC Safety Authority to install and inspect propane products and have staff with current *Recreation Vehicle Installation and Service Certificate of Qualifications*.



## NEED MORE SAFETY INFORMATION?

Additional public safety information is available on the BCSA web site at [www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca), and on the Propane Gas Association of Canada web site at [www.propanegas.ca](http://www.propanegas.ca)

The British Columbia Safety Authority is an independent, self-funded corporation that delivers cost-effective and essential safety services to business, industry, institutions and the general public. Through their Inspection, Licensing and Certification programs they ensure the safety of gas systems, products, and work practices. Propane installation, maintenance and repair work on RVs must be done by a person with a current Recreation Vehicle Installation and Service Certificate of Qualification issued by the BCSA. Shops that install propane systems and appliances on RVs are required to be registered with the BCSA.

### JOINTLY SPONSORED BY:



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General



Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia



### BC SAFETY AUTHORITY

TOLL FREE NUMBER:  
1.866.566.SAFE (7233)

[www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca)



# RV

## Propane Safety



## PROPANE AND YOUR RV

Propane is a very safe fuel when properly used. It is widely used throughout the world. It will heat your RV, cook your meals, provide hot water, and even refrigerate your food.

Take a few minutes to read through this brochure and share the important safety information with your family and other users of the RV. As with all other fuels, you need to handle propane with care and know what to do in case of a leak or other emergency.

## PROPERTIES OF PROPANE

Propane gas has a smell like rotten eggs or boiling cabbage added for early detection of propane leaks. Propane gas is heavier than air, so when checking for leaks, be aware that it can gather in low-lying areas.

Propane can be ignited by many sources including pilot lights, open flames, smoking materials, electric sparks, and static electricity. Ignition of propane gas within an enclosed space can result in an explosion.



## RV STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

New RVs have a CSA International (CSA) or Quality Auditing Institute (QAI) certification mark / decal signifying compliance with Canadian propane system requirements in CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z240 *RV Series Recreational Vehicles* or CAN/CSA Z241 *Park Model Trailers*.

Propane work on used RVs must comply with CAN/CSA-B149.2 *Propane Storage and Handling Code* and provincial requirements.

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

### All fuel burning appliances require:

- An adequate supply of air for combustion
- Effective venting of the products of combustion

CO is a colourless, odourless toxic gas. Exposure to CO causes flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, impaired judgement, loss of manual dexterity, and even loss of consciousness. In severe cases, CO poisoning can cause brain damage and death.

CO is produced by the incomplete burning of fuels. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from regularly maintained propane appliances that are properly ventilated is extremely low.

The propane burners in RV furnaces, water heaters and refrigerators are sealed from the inside of the vehicle. Air for combustion is drawn from outside and products of combustion are exhausted outside.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Ensure you and any other users of the RV are familiar with manufacturer's written operating and maintenance instructions. Ask for safety instructions if you are renting an RV.
- Have propane equipment checked and maintained regularly by a recreation vehicle shop registered with the British Columbia Safety Authority.
- Become familiar with the odour of propane.
- If you think you smell propane, get everyone out of the unit and close the supply valve on the propane containers.
- When using a propane stove or oven, open a vent or window and turn on the range hood fan to remove moisture and combustion products (which may contain CO).
- Never use stove burners or oven for space heating. They are designed for attended cooking only.
- Don't use portable propane camping equipment in your RV (e.g. camp stoves, barbecues, lanterns, catalytic or radiant heaters).
- Don't use charcoal barbecues or portable liquid fuel camping equipment in your RV. Liquid fuels include kerosene, camp fuel, butane, gasoline, alcohol, lamp oil, etc.
- Have everyone leave the RV and get medical attention if an individual shows physical symptoms of CO poisoning (headaches, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, impaired judgement, loss of manual dexterity).
- Consider purchasing a propane gas alarm and carbon monoxide alarm. If battery operated, replace the batteries at the start of each RV season.
- Before entering an area for refilling gasoline/diesel and on-board propane containers, turn off all burners, pilot lights, appliances and automatic ignition devices. Turn off the vehicle engine and have everyone leave the RV vehicle before refueling.
- Transport propane containers in the upright position and secured.
- Never use, store, or transport propane cylinders or liquid fuels in the passenger space or living area of your RV.
- Don't transport or use propane containers that are damaged, show signs of corrosion, have been exposed to fire, or appear to be leaking.
- After exchanging propane cylinders, always check connections for leaks with an approved leak detector solution, or with a mixture of 50% liquid soap and 50% water applied with a paint brush.
- Propane cylinders must be inspected and requalified every 10 years. New cylinder valves may have additional safety features (overfill protection and safety valve to prevent propane from being released when the valve is opened but not connected).
- When shopping for propane equipment for your RV or camping, always ask if the product is certified for Canada. Many products sold outside Canada do not comply with Canadian safety standards.

