



Checking Your Propane System

Your propane system and appliances are made up of mechanical parts, and like all mechanical parts, should be periodically checked by a qualified service person or your propane dealer.

You will find a **Propane System Checklist** at the end of this report that can be used to check the propane system.

If you suspect or find problems with your propane system, call your propane dealer.

WARNING: DO NOT TRY TO REPAIR YOUR GAS APPLIANCES OR TAMPER WITH THE CONTROL VALVES ON YOUR GAS APPLIANCES. MANY ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY UNQUALIFIED OR OVERLY CONFIDENT PEOPLE TAMPERING WITH PROPANE CYLINDERS, TANKS, VALVES, REGULATORS, LINES, AND APPLIANCES.

National fire statistics show that a high number of propane flash fires are associated with attempts either to repair gas appliances or to relight gas appliance pilots.

DON'T RISK IT. CALL AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE TO SERVICE YOUR SYSTEM.

WARNING:

- **Do not smoke or have any source of ignition, such as flames or any spark producing tools, in the area when checking propane appliances, piping, or equipment for leaks.**
- **Never override the safety features of your appliances.**

Below-Grade Installation

Propane-fueled appliances should only be installed below-grade (basements) if such an installation is permitted by local laws, codes, or regulations. Propane does not dissipate as rapidly as natural gas. Although propane will diffuse and spread with time, it tends to collect initially in low areas (including basements). Adequate ventilation is needed to properly operate appliances installed below grade. Good ventilation is required to remove propane from a basement or any below-grade location. Leaving a door or window open for a few minutes is not adequate ventilation.

Disconnected Propane Piping

Disconnected propane piping must always be capped or plugged. Gas leaks can also occur if gas outlets or lines are left uncapped when moving or changing a propane-fueled appliance.

WARNING: Never bleed gas inside a closed area.

Gauges

Periodically check the liquid level or percent gauge on your tank or cylinder to prevent gas-outs.

Valves

Check for rust and water damage on the appliance. (If the appliance has been under water, do not operate the appliance.) Have a trained propane service person immediately replace rusty and water-damaged gas control valves.

Regulators

NEVER USE PROPANE FROM A TANK WITHOUT A REGULATOR. Protect the regulator connector from scratches and dents. Any damage to the connector may cause a leaking joint. Make sure the regulator vent is pointed downward and the regulator is protected. This prevents ice from blocking the vent. Ensure the regulator vent is clean. Check that nothing has blocked the vent, such as an insect, mud-dauber, wasp nests, spider cocoons, etc..

Out Of Gas Situation (Gas-Out)

Gas valves on the tank or cylinder should be turned off after a gas-out. Be sure to shut off all appliances. Arrange for refueling and inform North Star Energy that you ran out of gas. A tank does not have to be empty for a gas-out to occur.

CAUTION: You must turn off the gas valve. Moist air drawn in through openings such as pipes can cause rust in the tank or cylinder and lead to odor fade.

Gas-Out Safety Checks

Gas-outs can be extremely dangerous if not handled properly.

When a gas-out occurs, North Star Energy should conduct safety checks according to industry recognized safety standards. You could be at risk if these safety checks are not performed.

If your propane-fueled appliance is more than 15 years old, or if you are not sure how old it is, have a trained appliance service person inspect it. Ask the service person to check all recall program bulletins to see if any involve your appliances, control valves, or their components.

Most tanks and some cylinders will have a gauge that measures the level of liquid remaining. If not, discuss methods of preventing gas-outs with us.

NOTE: The safest way to prevent gas-outs is never to let the tank become empty or nearly empty.

Refueling

The smell of gas means you may have a leak in your propane system. The smell of propane gas is NOT necessarily a signal that the tank is nearly empty and should be refilled.

The tank should always be under a small amount of gas pressure to prevent moisture and air from entering the system.

Propane Delivery

For gas-out deliveries, schedule the delivery for a time when you or another responsible person can be there. The delivery person must be able to get to the appliances to test them and the gas system. The service person is the one who should relight all appliance pilots.

The delivery person should leave a "NO-ONE-HOME NOTICE" tag on your tank or door if you are not home and you were out of gas. The tag tells you to call us to arrange a time for a service person to return and relight the pilots on your appliances.

NOTE: To ensure the safety of your gas system installation, work with us to keep your system fueled at all times.

Closing Up A House

When you are going to be away from your home for an extended period of time, (such as vacation) shut off the propane system at the tank or cylinder, as well as at the appliances. Call North Star Energy when you return to relight your appliances.

Recreational Vehicle (RV)

Read and follow the instructions that came with your RV or camper-trailer on how to properly use the propane system.

Your gas system should be periodically checked by your RV dealer as over-the-road travel may loosen connections. Also, consult your manufacturer's recommendation for propane system inspection and maintenance and contact your R.V. dealer or North Star Energy.

Ventilation

Because of the threat of carbon monoxide build-up due to an improperly vented appliance, you should have us inspect your venting system on a periodic basis. An annual inspection is recommended in the late summer or early fall before the cold days of the heating season begin.