

PROPANE TANK DISPOSAL



Propane tanks come in all different sizes and sometimes reach their end-of-life and need to be disposed of. Propane fueled gas grill tanks have a 12 year life span and are stamped with this certification date. A tank may be re-certified and put back into use, or be taken out of circulation if no longer serviceable. Propane tanks can be disposed of, but it is important for them to be disposed of properly. Although propane can be either a liquid or a gas, under normal atmospheric pressure and temperature, it is a non-toxic, colorless, odorless gas. Under moderate pressure, propane becomes a liquid that vaporizes into a clean burning gas when released from its storage container. Just like natural gas, an identifying odor is



added so it can be readily detected.

SMALL PROPANE TANKS (GRILL SIZE)

Sometimes a tank is no longer able to be refilled and needs to be disposed of. Options for the homeowner include:

- Contact your local Regional Collection Center to see if they will accept your tank for disposal.

www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/HouseholdHazardousMaterials/RegionalCollectionCenters.aspx

- Contact your point of purchase to see if the tank can be returned to them.
- Check your yellow page listing under “gas-propane” for a recycler of tanks.

LARGE TANKS

- Consumers wishing to dispose of an unwanted large LP gas tank should contact a licensed propane company for removal.
- Check yellow page listing under “gas-propane” for a recycler of tanks.

PROPANE TANKS



AFTER A FLOOD

If a propane tank is in flooded debris, a company distributing gas may be able to identify the tank and return it to its proper location. Large tanks have serial numbers that help to identify owners and locations. If propane tanks are present or are found and there is reason to believe that they may be unsafe, contact the local fire department.

SAFETY AND VENTING OF SMALL TANKS

- When venting small tanks, it is important to consider ignition sources such as automobiles, burn piles and cigarettes, vent in a wide open area.
- Propane is heavier than air and will collect in low areas. Venting should be done in high spots.
- Tanks vented quickly may appear to be empty, when in fact; the tank still contains residual propane.
- Call your local Household Hazardous waste facility to obtain proper tank disposal directions.
- Recycling Facilities who vent propane from old tanks may be subject to air quality regulations.

If flooding is predicted in your area, turn off the main gas valve at the cylinder or tank before the water reaches the tank. This can be done by turning the valve in a clockwise direction.

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LARGE TANKS AND APPLIANCES:

- Do not attempt to move any large propane tanks if they appear damaged as they present a very real danger of fire or explosion.
- Propane-powered household appliances, farm equipment or vehicle with controls or regulators that have been underwater should be inspected by your propane supplier before being put back into service. Since water damage to propane equipment and appliances is not always readily apparent.
- The number one problem created by flooding is water damage of regulators and controls. Such damage can cause blockage, corrosion or other malfunction of the key safety devices that are built into the system. In addition, dirt or debris may have entered the regulator through the vent. While this is not an immediate threat, selected parts may need to be replaced to ensure the long-range safety of the equipment. Propane suppliers can also determine whether dents to the container or piping caused by flowing debris are serious enough to warrant equipment replacement.
- If your propane equipment has been flooded, be sure to shut off the service valve at the propane tank if you didn't do so before evacuating the property. This can be done by turning the valve in a clockwise direction. Be sure to have the system and appliances checked prior to turning on the gas supply.



- In the rare cases when people smell gas upon returning to their home, business or farm, they should extinguish all smoking materials and open flames. Exit the building immediately. Do not touch electrical switches, light matches or use the phone. Turn off the gas valve on the outside tank, meter or service area. Telephone your propane supplier and/or fire department from a neighbor's phone. Do not re-enter until the building has been inspected.
- Be sure to inform your propane company of your return if you were ordered to evacuate.

FACT

The maximum number of tanks that can be transported without special licensing or placarding the transportation vehicle is 25 standard grill tanks.



HANDLING TIPS:

- Store your tank upright until you can recycle or exchange it properly. It is best to store in an outdoor area free of physical damage or tampering events.
- Do not attempt to remove the valve from the tank. Special safety equipment is required to prevent an explosion.
- Use up all residual gas, for non-refillable (disposable) tanks.
- Always transport your cylinder in a secure, upright position, so it will not fall, roll or shift.
- Do NOT put a cylinder into a dumpster or other disposal container. This could create an explosion hazard!
- Do not leave valve open, as the escaping gas is a fire hazard as well as a source of air pollution.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.npga.org

www.propane101.com