

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.

After Use

1. First, turn gas valve off, 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.



HOUSE CATCHES FIRE FROM EXPLODING BARBECUE

Residents of the home called the Hamilton Fire Department on Saturday, May 9, 2015. Their barbecue caught fire after it was turned on.

The residents said the tank ignited, and then exploded. The patio caught fire and it quickly spread to the house. Everyone got out of the house safely. There were no injuries. Fire officials estimate the damage at \$300,000 and stressed that it is important to check the tank and hoses on your barbecue.





Common Barbecue Fuels

Propane:

- Propane and natural gas are odourless. For safety reasons, a "rotten egg" smell is added before the gas is sold.
- Propane gas is heavier than air. Propane that leaks from a barbecue may remain in the lower cabinet or other low lying areas. If the rotten egg smell is gone, the gas has likely gone away.
- 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.
- Barbecues may produce carbon monoxide when used. It has no colour, smell or taste and can cause serious health problems or death if inhaled; it is important to use your barbecue outdoors, in a well-ventilated area.

Charcoal:

- Use only sufficient charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 5cm (2").
- Store extra charcoal in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid to keep it dry. Wet charcoal can spontaneously combust and start a fire.
- Never use gasoline as an aid to ignite charcoal briquettes, only use proper charcoal lighting fluid. Use the lighting fluid sparingly and NEVER PUT IT ON AN OPEN FLAME.
- Burning charcoal produces carbon monoxide gas - always barbecue outside in a well-ventilated area away from any open windows or doors.
- Ensure the coals are completely out before disposing of them.

SOURCES: *Canada.ca and Chesterfire.ca, Propane.ca, CTVNews*

BARBECUE DO'S and DON'TS

DO...

- ✓ Keep loose clothing away from a hot bbq.
- ✓ Keep children and pets at a safe distance.
- ✓ If you suspect a leak or the bbq is not working correctly, contact a qualified service technician.
- ✓ Position your bbq away from wooden fences or walls.
- ✓ Ensure the area behind your bbq is free of combustible material.
- ✓ Invest in a bbq cover to keep moisture, snow and UV rays from deteriorating it.
- ✓ Choose a new bbq that passes recognized Canadian Safety Standards.

DON'T...

- ✗ Leave the bbq unattended when in use.
- ✗ Allow grease to build up on the burners or at the base of the bbq, 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 bbq, or near sources of heat or ignition.
- ✗ Store or use a bbq on your apartment balcony, unless authorized.