



Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association

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Spring Outdoor Living Safety Tips

Harrisburg, PA – After another blustery winter, warm weather and a return to outdoor living can't come soon enough. For homeowners with outdoor propane appliances, the wait is finally over. Portable fire pits, patio heaters, and gas grills make outdoor living spaces comfortable places to gather now even before the last snow drifts have melted. For many people, getting these outdoor areas ready for early-season entertaining is top priority on spring-cleaning to-do lists.

Before bringing out portable appliances and firing up the propane grill, PAPGA & PERC (Propane Education & Research Council) offer the following tips to help homeowners get the most from their outdoor appliances safely:

- Keep burnable materials like dry grass, wood, or debris at least 10 feet away from propane tanks and cylinders. Never burn wood, coal, or anything other than propane in a propane fire pit.
- Never store tanks or cylinders inside buildings, including garages or sheds.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for the appliance you're using, including where to put the unit, how to connect it to a cylinder, and how to use, clean, and store it. Fire pits and heaters need varying amounts of clearance, depending on the model. In general, allow at least three feet of clearance on all sides.
- Have your fire pit inspected by a professional every year. [Click Here](#) to find the nearest service provider in your community.
- Before lighting your propane grill for the first time in the spring, check the cooking grid and warming rack to be sure both are in their proper place. Clean the grid, the interior of the grill, and the burner (according to the manufacturer's instructions) with a wire brush or scraper to remove any built-up food. And remember — always keep the top open when lighting the grill until you are sure it is lit.

- If the igniter fails to light the grill after two or three tries, turn off the gas and replace the igniter according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- When it's time to refill or replace a propane cylinder, stow it upright in your vehicle in a well-ventilated area, not the trunk. Return home directly after refilling.
- Replace any tank that has holes, dents, rusted weak spots, cracks, or other damage, or is past its expiration date.

If you are interested in more outdoor living ideas, tips and information, please [visit this link](#).

The Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association is a member-focused trade association providing services that communicate, educate and promote the propane industry in Pennsylvania. The association was formed in 1947 to offer opportunities to learn through training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

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