

Safe storage and handling of LPG gas cylinders

Storage of a LPG gas cylinder

- Keep the cylinder valves closed when not in use and fit and tighten the plug to the cylinder valve internal thread.
- Ensure that the cylinder is stored upright (vertical) at all times and is not at risk of tipping over.
- Inspect the cylinder on a regular basis to ensure it is in good condition, free from rust and housed properly.
- Ensure the cylinder is stored in an area that is adequately ventilated and not susceptible to excessive temperature rise.
- Store the cylinder in a secure location to protect against falling, damage, being hit by ride on mowers, vandalism, etc.
- Provide separate storage for LPG away from the oxidising gases (e.g. oxygen) by at least three metres.
- Use the cylinders only in well ventilated areas.
- Do **not** store the cylinder in close proximity to an ignition source, or in locations that could jeopardise escape from the building in the event of a fire.

Before the cylinder is connected to an appliance, it is essential that you check:

- the LPG cylinder's date stamp is less than ten years old. LPG cylinders must be re-tested every ten years, and should not be used if the cylinder is 'out-of-date'
- the LPG cylinder is in good condition, and must be free from damage and rust
- the LPG cylinder valve is clean and in good condition
- the hoses and appliance fittings are in good condition.
- give special attention to the rubber o-rings and rubber parts used on LPG regulators, and replace these as required
- suspected leaks can be checked by using soapy water; check cylinder, valve and connections to the appliance (e.g. barbeque, heater, camp light etc). Always rinse and dry the connection when the leak test is finished. **Never use a match or cigarette lighter.**

While using the cylinder, it is essential that you check:

- all LPG cylinders are kept outdoors, upright, away from sources of heat, whether in use, or spare
- that the cylinder cannot be warmed by a barbeque, heater or other appliance
- the LPG cylinder valve is closed when the cylinder or appliance is not in use.
- Do **NOT** use or store a cylinder inside a hot car.

When finished, it is essential that you check:

- the cylinder valve is closed
- the cylinder is stored safely, full or empty, away from sources of heat
- dirt, spiders and insects do not get inside the valve outlet during storage (plastic plugs are available to keep the valve outlet clean)
- the appliance is stored safely to avoid damage.
- **Note:** never store a cylinder upside down.

Additional information:

- [Guideline for managing risks with chemicals in DoE workplaces](#)