

HANDLE PROPANE PROPERLY

BCSA SAFETY TIPS



Do you camp? Barbecue? RV?



Whether you only use your outdoor gas equipment when you go camping during the summer or at your ski cabin during the winter as well, your outdoor gas equipment can be the outdoor enthusiast's best friend – as long as you treat it with respect. By taking these simple safety precautions, your outdoor adventures will be safe as well as fun.

Check your propane tank:

- during transportation, ensure that it is secured in an upright position, with the cylinder valve closed and plugged or capped, in a well ventilated space in your vehicle
- ensure that your propane supplier checks the tank for dents, damage, rust or leaks before refilling it
- never leave your propane tank in your vehicle
- when you reconnect your refilled propane tank, conduct a leak test on all connections before firing up

When using propane to power your barbecue:

- inspect hoses for cracks, wear and possible leaks
- clear burners, air openings and regulator vents of rust, spiders or other insects that may cause blockages
- replace corroded or cracked burners
- test your barbecue for gas leaks, following the instructions in the BCSA's "Barbecue Safety" flyer
- follow proper lighting procedures

When you set up, place your gas equipment outside your tent or recreational vehicle and well away from windows and combustible materials. Follow all the guidelines for safe use of propane when camping, as outlined on the BC Safety Authority's "Camp Safely with Propane" flyer.

Most importantly, when you want to get away from it all without leaving all the creature comforts behind, remember that outdoor gas equipment is designed only for outdoor use.

It may be tempting to bring your propane stove inside your tent to keep warm when you get caught in a rainstorm, or bring your outdoor propane space heater into the ski cabin when lighting the fire seems like too much trouble, but resist the temptation. Using outdoor gas equipment in confined spaces can create a serious safety hazard like carbon monoxide poisoning for you and your family.

Keeping your propane equipment in good working order, using them outdoors in well ventilated areas, and using them for what they are meant for are the best ways to ensure a safe and enjoyable camping experience.

Contact your local BCSA office for more Information about camping safely with propane.