



Clutha District Council

LPG in the home



A 9kg LPG cylinder

LPG is a great fuel – it's instant, efficient and environmentally friendly. Like any form of energy, treat it with respect to prevent accidents.

How many LPG cylinders am I allowed in my house?

If practical, all LPG cylinders should be located outside, under cover. If not, the following limits are recommended:

- Inside a house: 20kg of LPG (for example two 9kg cylinders), whether in use or stored, including any cylinders in an attached garage; and
- On the residential property: 50kg of unconnected LPG cylinders, combined inside and outside.

If you exceed these limits, contact your insurer and check that you will be fully covered in the event of a fire. And if so, contact Council's hazardous substances officer, who can give you a check sheet that should be completed by a licensed Craftsman Gasfitter.

A location with more than 100kg of LPG requires a test certificate, issued by a test certifier.

How can I know whether my gas appliance is installed safely?

Always get a licensed Craftsman Gasfitter to install your gas appliances or alter your gas supply. Soon it will be illegal for the home handy person to do any fixed LPG installation work.

If the gas appliance was not installed by a licensed craftsman gasfitter then it may not be safe. In such cases it is recommended that you have the appliance checked by a licensed craftsman gasfitter.

Ideally a gas cylinder supplying a cooker should be located outside the house. Where this is not practical, the cylinder should be located in a specially built compartment. You should be concerned if you have a cylinder compartment that:

- Is not ventilated to the outside of the house
- Has a power point or electrical appliance
- Has the hose passing through a wall or divider

How do I use my gas heater safely?

If ventilation is restricted, or if a gas appliance is faulty or has not been maintained, it can produce carbon monoxide. This is a gas that can cause headaches and nausea, possibly leading to unconsciousness or even death.

While it is odourless, carbon monoxide is sometimes accompanied by other emissions that may produce a "car exhaust" smell or watery eyes.

Always keep a window open when using portable gas heaters. **Never** use them in a bathroom, bedroom, or in a confined space.

Flued gas heaters need to have the flue checked regularly by a gasfitter, as blockages of any type can be dangerous.

Always keep your gas heater at least 1 metre away from anything that could catch on fire. Put a safety guard around your heater if you have young children in your home or it is located where people frequently walk past.

Outdoor gas appliances and camping gas appliances should never be used indoors. This includes patio heaters, barbecues and camping cookers.

How often am I supposed to maintain my gas appliance?

Gas appliances can, and will, wear out. Plastic and rubber seals deteriorate resulting in gas leaking out. The jets in gas burners can become clogged resulting in incomplete combustion and the production of carbon monoxide. If you see soot building up on the burner it is a good sign there is something wrong and you should not use the heater. A change in the normal colour of the flame from blue to yellow may also be seen.

To ensure the safety of your gas appliance or installation, get it checked regularly, preferably by a manufacturer's or distributor's service agent. Have your gas heaters checked and serviced before winter every year by a service agent so you know it is in a safe condition for winter.

Spread a solution of water and dishwashing liquid on the connections each time you reconnect your appliance after refilling your cylinder. If bubbles appear, there is a leak.

More information

Lots more information is available on the Energy Safety Service website:

www.ess.govt.nz