



Technical Information

PROPANE TANKS

Propane is a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which is heavier than air. The rules for propane installations are found in the International Fire Code, Chapter 38, and in the International Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58 and the International Fire Code table 3804.3.

Are there restrictions for installing an LPG appliance?

The following information represents a compilation of typical requirements found in the international codes. It is intended to be used as a guide and does not reflect a complete listing of requirements.

LPG INSTALLATION GUIDE:

Piping

- Metal piping shall be minimum 12 inches depth.
- Must be factory applied protective coatings.
- Field wrap is restricted to sections and fittings stripped for threading.
- Primer shall be used with wrapping tape.
- Isolation unions are required.
- 60 psi pressure test for 30 minutes with a 100 psi gauge.
- Yellow tracer not less than 18 AWG.

Containers

Clearances to structure or property line are as follows:

- Less than 125 gallons 5 ft.: (special requirements)
- 125 to 500 gallons: 10 feet.
- 500 to 2,000 gallons: 25 feet (see footnotes for reduced clearances).

Appliances

Must be listed for propane.

How do I get my permit?

Permits and inspections are required for the installation of such appliances and for the associated piping and storage tank. To apply for a permit bring in to our office:

- A site plan showing the proposed location of the tank(s) and distances to buildings and property lines;
- The tank(s) capacity and the type of contents to be stored;
- Contractor information including current Washington State Contractor license number, business name, address, and phone number.
- Fees for processing the permit and providing inspections for the project shall be charged at the rate specified in department fee schedules. Please refer to the current fee schedule or consult with department staff.

What inspections will be required?

- Air Test
- Inspection of all equipment/piping before cover
- Final Inspection

For more information or an appointment contact:

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300 S. 19th Street
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(509) 843-1301
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