



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
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www.lincoln.ne.gov, Keyword: household



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RECYCLING PROPANE GAS GRILL TANKS

What is Propane?

Propane, or liquefied petroleum gas (LP-gas), is a fossil fuel and one of the nation's most versatile sources of energy. It supplies 3 to 4 percent of our total energy. Propane is an approved, alternate clean fuel listed in the 1990 Clean Air Act as well as the National Energy Policy Act of 1992. Propane can be either a liquid or a gas. At the normal atmospheric pressure and temperature, it is a non-toxic, colorless and odorless gas. Under moderate pressure, propane becomes a liquid that vaporizes into clean-burning gas when released from its storage container. Just like natural gas, an identifying odor is added so it can be readily detected.

What are the hazards?

Propane is a hazardous material. It must be handled and disposed of properly. The issues surrounding the propane tanks used for home grilling have to do with disposal or recycling of the tanks or cylinders that are no longer serviceable. Used propane tanks have some amount of gas left in them. Tanks containing fuel under pressure may explode if the tank integrity is altered. The new federal requirement based on the National Fire Protection Association standard (NFPA 58), effective April 1, 2002, prohibits tanks without an overfill prevention device (OPD) from being filled. Because of the liability most dealers are refusing to refill tanks without an OPD.

Please observe the following safety precautions.

- Do not throw a propane gas tank in the trash.
- Do not attempt to remove the valve from your tank.
- Do not leave valve open. Escaping gas may cause a fire hazard as well as a source of air pollution.
- Store tanks outside in an area where they are least likely to suffer from physical damage or tampering.
- Tanks should always be stored in an upright position.
- Never use a torch or cutting wheel. The tank may contain enough propane to cause a potential fire and explosion hazard.

Disposal and Recycling Information

The following businesses in Lincoln will accept propane gas grill tanks:



Ferrell Gas
 3200 Superior Street
 Lincoln, NE
 Phone: 477-5151
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Lee's Propane Service Inc.
 625 West "O" Street
 Lincoln, NE
 Phone: 474-3235
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Saturday)
**Call for Cost*

Small gas cylinders can be brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

