



# Storing LPG at home and other places outside of work

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Many people use LPG for cooking or heating in their homes, at social or community events, and on holiday. There are rules for storing LPG at home and at other places outside of work. Find out more here.

## Understand the hazards

LPG is short for 'liquid petroleum gas' and is butane, propane or a mixture of these gases. Its hazardous properties are:

- LPG ignites and burns easily; that's why it's great for cooking and heating
- if it leaks, it can ignite and sometimes explode
- it is stored under pressure in canisters and cylinders.

## Buying LPG

LPG is available in different sized containers, depending on how much you need and what you are using it for. These include portable cylinders and canisters available from garages, garden centres and camping shops. Some people have large cylinders (45 kg) delivered and installed outside of a property by a gas company.

## Storing LPG outdoors

Large LPG cylinders (45 kg or more) at homes or other places outside of work (such as voluntary organisations and public places) must always be installed outside. To make sure these cylinders are installed safely, always use a licenced gas fitter. They will know all of the safety and security checks for your site, and the rules and regulations for your area.

If you want to connect or disconnect these large 45 kg cylinders yourself, you must make sure you know how to do this safely. You should be trained by the gas company to do this. If you're not trained, leave it to a professional.

If you plan to store more than 100 kg of LPG in one place outdoors at your property (in large, installed cylinders and any



smaller, portable cylinders kept in the same place), you need to organise special permission to ensure that the installation is legal and safe, as follows:

### Sites with 100–300 kg LPG

For homes or other places outside of work that are storing 100-300 kg of LPG, your gas supplier must fix a valid compliance plaque in a prominent position on the site. This compliance plaque is proof that the LPG installation is safe. The gas supplier must also tell us at the EPA about your installation.

### Sites with more than 300 kg LPG

For homes and other places outside of work storing more than 300 kg of LPG in one place, the property owner must contact a compliance certifier to ask for a HSNO certificate. Once this certificate is issued, the certifier must tell us at the EPA about your installation. To find a registered compliance certifier, see the WorkSafe New Zealand website.



## Storing LPG cylinders indoors

Where possible, portable LPG cylinders should be stored outside or in well-ventilated areas.

If LPG must be stored or used indoors, there are limits for how much can be held and used in dwellings and other places that are not workplaces. This depends on the type of building and how large it is.

The size of any LPG cylinder stored or used indoors must be 10 kg or less in weight. For dwellings (including houses, townhouses or individual apartments) in buildings of three storeys or less, each dwelling can store up to 20 kg of LPG in total. For buildings more than three storeys, each dwelling may store up to 10 kg. It is illegal to store more than these quantities inside these dwellings.

For other undercover areas, in buildings with a roof and at least three walls, if these are attached to another building, you can store up to 20 kg per premises. If the area is not attached to another building, you can store 10 kg of LPG per 10 m<sup>2</sup> of the indoor floor area, up to a maximum total quantity of 100 kg. As above, the maximum size of LPG cylinder is 10 kg.

### Remember:

- store cylinders upright in a dry, well-ventilated place
- keep them out of reach of children and pets
- check the cylinders regularly to make sure they are in good condition



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For more information

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