

Gas safety at home



Creating a safer state
with electricity and gas

Most gas incidents happen at **home.**

Gas leaks can lead to fires and explosions and faulty appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

To stay safe, make sure your gas installations and appliances are properly installed and well maintained.

Energy Safe Victoria has prepared this guide to help prevent incidents involving natural gas and LP Gas within your home. It is important to seek the advice of a licensed gasfitter if you think your gas appliances or installations may be unsafe.

What is gas?

Natural gas and LP Gas are readily available in Victoria for domestic use. Odorant is added to both gases to give them a pungent smell that makes them easy to detect. As LP Gas is heavier than air, gas escapes will collect in low places and not disperse easily. Natural gas is lighter than air and disperses more readily. Gas escapes can lead to explosions and fires, and breathing high concentrations could cause vomiting, headaches and nausea.

Fixed gas installations

All gas appliances must be installed by a licensed gasfitter. It is important that appliances are installed properly and well maintained. Poor installation or a lack of servicing could result in carbon monoxide being produced. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal or cause chronic, debilitating illness. Always follow the manufacturer's servicing instructions and have appliances serviced by a licensed gasfitter at least every two years.

Portable gas appliances

Portable gas appliances such as barbecues and patio heaters do not require installation by a licensed gasfitter. Make sure you always follow the manufacturer's assembly instructions and ensure that all connections are tight. Check connections regularly to ensure they are tight and not leaking gas. Outdoor gas appliances should never be used indoors.

Don't do it yourself!

All gas appliances must be installed by a licensed gasfitter and it is illegal to install plumbing material unless you are a licensed gasfitter.

Important gas safety tips

- Keep your gas appliances in good condition and have them serviced at least every two years
- Never use home-made gas appliances or connections
- If gas fails to light properly, turn off the supply and leave for three minutes to allow unburnt gas to disperse
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure there is adequate ventilation when using gas appliances
- Keep patio heaters away from combustible surfaces such as tents, umbrellas and shade sails
- Never disconnect a gas cylinder without checking that the gas is turned off
- When exchanging a cylinder check the rubber O ring or rubber bull nosing, if fitted to your regulator and hose assembly, is present and in good condition
- Check for leaks with a soapy water solution—if bubbles form there is a leak. Tighten connections and check again after a few minutes—if in doubt call a licensed gasfitter
- Replace obsolete or worn out appliances
- Only use gas appliances that carry certification badges.

Don't risk a gas incident at home

Indoors

- Never leave gas appliances unattended
- Never leave children alone with a gas appliance
- Never store aerosol cans, such as fly spray or air freshener, on or near a gas appliance, as they may explode
- Always keep flammable materials, such as furniture and curtains, well away from gas heaters
- Ensure that gas appliances that are permitted to be installed in bathrooms, toilets, bedrooms and sleeping areas are serviced regularly
- Service gas appliances at least every two years and don't forget about appliances installed in the roof space or under the floor.

Outdoors

- Know where your isolation valve is located (near your meter or cylinders)
- Don't refuel your petrol-powered garden equipment near an operating outdoor gas appliance
- Take care when digging in your yard—find out where any underground gas or electricity pipes are located.

Barbecues

- Check all connections before use and don't forget the wok burner connections.

Don't do it yourself—
call a licensed gasfitter.

Emergency procedures

**If there is a gas leak or fire call 000
and request the Fire Brigade.**

Move people to safety. If safe to do so:

- Turn off the isolation valve at the meter or cylinder
- Turn off all burners
- Put out all ignition sources
- If indoors, ventilate the area by opening doors and windows.

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Faulty gas appliances can produce carbon monoxide—a colourless, odourless gas that can cause fatal poisoning or chronic, debilitating illness. The best way to protect your family is to have your gas appliances serviced by a licensed gasfitter at least every two years.

For further information go to
www.esv.vic.gov.au or phone
ESV on **(03) 9203 9700**.



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Level 5
4 Riverside Quay
Southbank VIC 3006

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