PLAYING IT

SAFE

Purging Propane Tanks Safely

Helpful tips for reducing your risk of propane hazards

Purging propane cylinders forces any air or water out of the cylinders and must be done before filling. Air and water are considered contaminants and can interfere with proper operation of cylinders. Purging helps equipment to operate properly and also keeps customers safe.

There are two scenarios when propane cylinders, or tanks, need to be purged.

- A new cylinder has not been vacuum purged by the manufacturer
- A cylinder has been opened to the atmosphere

Never purge a cylinder with liquid propane—this can cause the liquid to flash into vapour, the cylinder to chill and any moisture vapour in the walls to condense. Purging with liquid propane is not very effective because it only removes a small amount of air in the cylinder.

Using propane vapour to force the air out of a cylinder is a more effective purging method. Properly purging air from a cylinder helps it fill faster and helps any attached appliances work more efficiently.

Follow these steps to purge propane cylinders:

1. **Connect the vapour hose to the cylinder you want to purge**. Make sure you have the correct fittings installed when connecting the vapour hose to the cylinder service valve. If the cylinder's service valve does not have a female Prest-O-Lite (POL) opening, attach a cylinder service valve adapter to the POL adapter that's installed in the vapour line hose end valve. Securely tighten the vapour hose assembly to the cylinder service valve.
2. **Pressurize the cylinder to 1.06 kgf/cm2 (15 psig) with propane vapour**. With the service valve closed on the cylinder you're purging, open the service valve on the purging cylinder. Slowly position the ball valve on the vapour hose to allow propane vapour to vent into the cylinder being purged. If you do not detect any leakage, open the service valve on the cylinder being purged. Watch the gauge on the purging manifold until the pressure reaches1.06 kgf/cm2 .
3. **Bleed off the pressure in the cylinder**. When the pressure gauge is at 1.06 kgf/cm2, slowly position the ball valve on the vapour hose to vent a small volume of propane vapour and air until the pressure gauge is at 0 kgf/cm2. Be very cautious during this bleed-off process, because a small amount of propane vapour and air will be released.

To prevent ignition, venting should be done at least 7.6 metres (25 feet) from

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with these helpful tips provided by **Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc..**

"Propane is non-toxic, but its vapour displaces oxygen, making it dangerous to inhale."

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any open flames, smoking areas, portable electric tools and extension lights. Venting should be done at least 10.7 metres (35 feet) away from any metal cutting, grinding, oxygen-fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering or welding.

4. Repeat the purging process. To be sure you have purged 97 per cent of the air from the cylinder, pressurize and bleed off the pressure in the cylinder at least four more times. Leave the vapour return hose connected until the final purge. Then re-pressurize the cylinder to 1.06 kgf/cm2. Close the service valve on both the purging cylinder and the cylinder being purged and check for any leakage on the cylinder being purged.