



IMPCO Technologies

Propane Frequently Asked Questions

What Is Propane?

Propane is a hydrocarbon (C₃H₈) and is sometimes referred to as liquefied petroleum gas, LP-gas or LPG. Propane is produced from both natural gas processing and crude oil refining in roughly equal amounts from each source. Most propane used in the United States is produced domestically with about 15 percent imported from overseas. It is nontoxic, colorless and virtually odorless. As with natural gas, an identifying odor is added so the gas can be readily detected.

Is Propane Dangerous To The Environment?

Propane is an approved, clean fuel listed in the 1990 Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Propane is one of the cleanest burning of all fossil fuels. Tests conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency show that propane-fueled vehicles produce 30 percent to 90 percent less carbon monoxide and about 50 percent fewer toxins and other smog-producing emissions than gasoline engines. Propane is also nontoxic. Therefore, it's not harmful to soil or water.

Who Uses Propane?

Propane is a trusted and reliable energy source that is used by millions of Americans each day. It fulfills energy needs by burning cleanly and efficiently giving consumers more value for their energy dollar. People use propane in and around their homes for furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, outdoor grills, fireplaces and appliances; on farms for uses such as pest control, crop drying and irrigation pumps; for industrial uses such as forklifts and fleet vehicles; and in millions of commercial establishments, including restaurants and hotels that depend on propane for heating, cooking and other uses.

Is Propane Really A Convenient Fuel?

In the United States there are approximately 70,000 miles of interstate pipelines and more than 25,000 retail dealers making propane readily available for most homeowners. Propane is stored in portable tanks so it can be used in areas beyond gas mains. To fuel homes, large tanks can be buried underground because propane is a nontoxic, nonpoisonous fuel that doesn't contaminate aquifers or soil. Refueling a propane vehicle takes about the same amount of time as refueling a gasoline vehicle. Nationwide, propane refueling infrastructure consists of more than 10,000 public and private sites.

Where Do I Go To Find Out More About Propane?

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) was formed to promote the safe, efficient use of odorized propane gas as a preferred energy source. PERC is committed to educating the public about propane and propane safety. To contact PERC, call 202-452-8975 or visit the PERC website at www.usepropane.com.