

APPLIANCE MAINTENANCE



- **MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT.** All appliances using propane must be properly maintained in order to operate safely, properly, and efficiently.
- **LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS.** Only a qualified service technician has the proper training to install, service, maintain, and repair your appliances. Make sure you have a qualified service technician install and service your appliances.



- **ANNUAL INSPECTION IS IMPORTANT.** Contact a qualified service technician to perform an appliance inspection.
- **BE SURE YOUR APPLIANCES CAN “BREATHE” PROPERLY.** Regularly check the vents of your appliances to be sure that flue gases can flow easily to the outdoors. Insects, birds, and small animals sometimes build nests in vent pipes. Other obstructions such as snow or ice may also occur. If you see evidence of this, call a qualified service technician. Also, clear the area around your appliance to be sure plenty of air can reach the burner for proper combustion.



- **NEVER** store combustible materials near appliances.
- **WATCH FOR YELLOW FLAMES OR SOOT BUILD-UP.** When appliances are operating properly, propane burns with a blue flame. If you see yellow flames, or notice significant amounts of soot on any equipment, the gas may not be burning completely. This can create carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas. Contact a qualified service technician if any of the above conditions occur.

APPLIANCE CONNECTORS

- **PROPERLY INSTALL AND MAINTAIN CONNECTORS.** The final section of the system that brings gas to your appliances is the appliance connector (see illustration on page 24). It is important that all appliance connectors are properly inspected, installed, and maintained by a qualified service technician.
- **HAVE CONNECTORS CHECKED WHEN MOVING OR REPLACING APPLIANCES.** Connectors can wear out from too much moving, bending, or corrosion. Connectors should be checked by a qualified service technician whenever the appliance is replaced or moved from its location.
- **USE ONLY APPROVED APPLIANCE CONNECTORS.** Make sure that all connectors and gas piping/tubing that bring propane to your appliances are installed by a qualified service technician and approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- **HAVE OLDER APPLIANCE CONNECTORS INSPECTED.** Over time, some types of appliance connectors can crack or break, resulting in a serious gas leak and the possibility of fire or explosion. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has warned that certain types of older connectors are extremely dangerous. If you have an appliance that is more than 20 years old, have a qualified service technician inspect the connectors to be sure they are safe and meet current safety-code requirements.
- **DO NOT MOVE AN APPLIANCE YOURSELF** to check the connector; this might damage the connector and create a leak.

IF YOU MOVE OR GET A NEW APPLIANCE

- **TREAT CONNECTORS WITH CARE.** When an appliance is moved, be careful not to damage the appliance connector (the flexible tubing that brings gas to the unit). Older connectors can crack if flexed or twisted, which can lead to a gas leak.
- **IS THE APPLIANCE DESIGNED TO USE PROPANE?** Be sure that any new or used appliance being installed is designed for use with propane. Natural gas appliances **SHOULD NOT** be used with propane unless a qualified service technician has made required adjustments to the appliance.



- **HAVE THE APPLIANCE CHECKED OUT BEFORE YOU USE IT.** Be sure that the appliance is properly installed and that all controls and valves operate correctly. Contact a qualified service technician for assistance.
- **CAP OR PLUG UNATTACHED GAS LINES.** If you move a gas appliance and disconnect it from a gas line, be sure to contact your propane retailer or a qualified service technician to close, cap, or plug the open gas line. Any connectors or gas line not connected to an appliance can leak gas, or can be damaged if water accumulates inside it. The valve on any unattached gas line must be closed, and the open end must be sealed by installing a threaded cap or plug.



TAMPERING WITH APPLIANCES OR PROPANE EQUIPMENT

- **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES** try to modify or repair valves, regulators, connectors, controls, or other appliance and cylinder/tank parts. Doing so creates the risk of a gas leak.
- **CALL AN EXPERT.** If you are unable to operate any part of your propane system, or if you think an appliance or other device is not operating properly, call your propane retailer or a qualified service technician. They can inspect, adjust, repair, or replace any part of your propane system.
- **YOUR PROPANE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED FOR SAFETY.** Propane cylinders, tanks, and appliances incorporate special components (such as valves, connectors, controls, burners, and pilot lights) to keep them safe for use. Damaging these components can cause gas leaks.