

# Recycling Propane Grill Tanks

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ct.gov State of Connecticut



Governor Dannel P. Malloy |

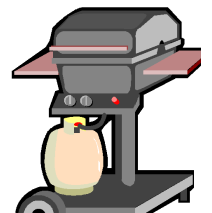


Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**NEW! Refillable one-pound propane tanks are now available nationwide.**

## Refuel Your Fun

Propane-fueled gas grills are being sold at a record pace for outdoor home cooking. Sales have out-paced charcoal, electric, and natural gas combined. Gas grill tanks are only fueled with LP-gas. Tanks are stamped with a manufactured date that indicates the start of its 12-year life span. Many tanks are now older than 12 years and no longer fit for use. Others have valves that no longer fit on newer grills. A new federal requirement based on the National Fire Protection Association standard 58 (NFPA 58), effective April 1, 2002, prohibits tanks without an overfill prevention device (OPD) from being filled. However, this federal standard was not accepted by the Connecticut State Legislature. Thus, Connecticut is still under the old version of NFPA 58. This means that you may have your tank refilled even if it does not have an OPD. However, because of liability issues, most marketers and dealers are refusing to refill tanks without an OPD.



Most people are taking their tanks to their local propane dealer or supplier where their old tanks are recovered. Do not expect to receive a "deposit". If reusable, the tanks are then repainted, re-certified and installed with an OPD. **If you are an individual looking for a disposal option for a spent tank, refer to marketers and dealers at the end of this fact sheet.** If you are an individual, please also observe the following safety precautions:

- Do not throw your tank in the trash.
- Do not attempt to remove the valve from your tank.
- Take empty tanks to your municipal transfer station, if available.
- Save for HHW collection, if tanks are accepted in your program.
- Call one of the many local tank recycling companies listed below.

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**If you are a transfer station that collects or transports propane tanks, please read on for more detailed information about how to safely manage and transport this item.**

## **What Is Propane?**

Propane, or liquefied petroleum (LP-gas), a fossil fuel, is one of the nation's most versatile sources of energy and supplies 3 to 4% of our total energy. Propane is an approved, alternate clean fuel listed in the 1990 Clean Air Act as well as the National Energy Policy Act of 1992. Propane can be either a liquid or a gas. At normal atmospheric pressure and temperature, it is a non-toxic, colorless and odorless gas. Under moderate pressure, propane becomes a liquid that vaporizes into a clean-burning gas when released from its storage container. Just like natural gas, an identifying odor is added so it can be readily detected.

## **Hazards**

The issues surrounding the 20-pound propane tanks used for home grilling have to do with disposal recycling of the cylinders or tanks that are no longer serviceable. All previously used propane tanks have some amount of gas left in them. Because propane is a hazardous material, it must be handled or disposed of properly. Tanks containing fuel under pressure may explode if tank integrity is altered. This may cause severe injury or death. Tanks containing compressed gas may explode in waste-to-energy facilities.

## **Handling / Storage and other Management Options**

The following measures should be taken when handling spent propane tanks.

- **Do Not Attempt To Remove Valve From Tank** . Special safety equipment is required to prevent explosion. Removal of valves involves costly equipment and extensive training to meet the requirements set out in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58 1-5 (Qualifications of Personnel) and 4-2.2.1 (Emergency Response Procedures).
- Use up all residual gas, for non-refillable (disposable) tanks.
- Do not leave valve open, because escaping gas is a fire hazard as well as a source of air pollution.
- When storing tanks, store outside in an area where they are least likely to suffer from physical damage or tampering (NFPA 58 5-2.1.1). Keep separate from other collected items. Tanks should always be stored in an upright position. Never store tanks on their side or upside down.
- **Do Not Put An Obsolete Tank Into a Dumpster or Other Disposal Container.** It can pose a serious safety concern if the trash truck compacts its load, as it could crush and rupture the cylinder, releasing the rest of the propane. This could create an explosion hazard.
- Avoid cutting the tank with a torch or cutting wheel. The tank may still contain propane and create a potential fire and explosion hazard.
- Scrap metal yards may take unwanted tanks, but they face the same issues and problems. They are also faced with very high explosion risk and damage costs should one of these tanks get into their system.

## **Transporting Tanks**

- Tanks must be secured on a flat surface or in racks, and in an upright position to minimize movement to each other or the vehicle. Tanks shall be determined to be leak free before loading into vehicle (NFPA 58 6-2.2.6).
- The maximum number of tanks that can be transported without special

licensing or placarding the transporting vehicle is 25 standard grill tanks. NFPA 58 6-2.2.8 states that vehicles transporting more than 1,000 pounds of LP-Gas, including the weight of the tanks, shall be placarded as required by Department of Transportation regulations or state law.

- When transporting any more than 25 tanks, the transporting vehicle must be placarded with the international propane symbol (1075). All placarded vehicles must be driven by an individual who holds a commercial drivers license with a hazardous materials (Hazmat) endorsement. All the requirements of NFPA 58, as well as additional requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation apply in this case.

**More Information**

National Propane Gas Association – [www.npga.org](http://www.npga.org)  
 National Fire Protection Agency – [www.nfpa.org/](http://www.nfpa.org/)

**Recycling Information**

Check the following list for a company that will accept tanks **or** check the Yellow Page listings under Gas-Propane. Some companies may charge a small fee. While DEEP does not endorse any particular company, the following is a list of Connecticut companies that recycle homeowner propane tanks.

**Tank Recycling Companies**

<p><b>Blue Rhino</b>, will accept tanks and recycle them at no cost to you. Simply leave your empty tank(s) beside a propane exchange display. To find a <b>Blue Rhino location</b> near you, or call 1-800-258-7466</p>			
<p><b>BANTAM</b>                  Bantam Fuel                  99 Bantam Lake Road                  (860) 567-9431</p>	<p><b>GLASTONBURY</b>                  Beamer Petroleum                  210 Commerce Street                  (860) 659-3515</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b>                  Taylor Rental Center                  304 Boston Post Road                  (203) 795-5251</p>	<p><b>WATERFORD</b>                  Amerigas                  52 Lower Bartlett Road                  (860) 848-9277</p>
<p><b>BRISTOL</b>                  AmeriGas                  651 Middle Street                  (203) 589-8071</p>	<p><b>JEWETT CITY</b>                  Griswold Bottled Gas                  91 B Slater Ave.                  (860) 376-2983</p>	<p><b>PLAINVILLE</b>                  The Home Gas Corp.                  Townline Road                  (860) 747-9868</p>	
<p><b>CHESHIRE</b>                  Hines Hardware                  231 Maple Ave.                  (860) 272-4063</p>	<p><b>LITCHFIELD</b>                  AmeriGas                  Route 202                  (203) 567-0601</p>	<p><b>SOUTH NORWALK</b>                  Hocon Gas Inc.                  33 Rockland Road                  (203) 853-1500</p>	
<p><b>COLCHESTER</b>                  AmeriGas                  275 South Main Street                  (860) 537-5925</p>	<p><b>MANCHESTER</b>                  Northeast Tank Disposal                  23 Electric Street                  (860) 649-2755</p>	<p><b>SOUTH WINDSOR</b>                  Propane Gas Service                  420 John Fitch Blvd.                  Rt 5                  (860) 289-0267</p>	

<b>DANBURY</b> Norbert E. Mitchell Co. 7 Federal Road (203) 744-0600	<b>MILFORD</b> Techair 35 Eastern Steel Road (203) 783-1834	<b>TRUMBULL</b> Rural Gas Company 7176 Main Street (203) 261-3641	
<b>DANBURY</b> Techair 50 Mill Plain Road (203) 792-1834	<b>NEW BRITAIN</b> Techair 251-B Whiting Street (860) 229-1834	<b>UNCASVILLE</b> Suburban Energy Services 262 Gallivan Lane (860) 848-5510	
<b>DANBURY</b> Federal Road Sunoco 7 Federal Road (203) 748-9438	<b>NEW MILFORD</b> Park Lane Sunoco 44 Park Lane Road (860) 354-1585	<b>WINDSOR</b> Suburban Energy Services 90 Macktown Road (860) 298-7950	
<b>DERBY</b> Suburban Energy Services 100 Water Street (203) 734-2503	<b>NORWALK</b> Hocon Propane Gas 33 Rockland Road (203) 853-1500	<b>WATERBURY</b> Schmidt & Serafine's 464 Chase Ave. (203) 754-5186	
<b>EAST HAVEN</b> Garganos Sales and Service 54 Hemingway Ave. (203) 467-5903	<b>ORANGE</b> Orange Town Refuse Center Orange Center Road (203) 795-5128	<b>WATERBURY</b> Hocon Gas Inc. 20 Railroad Hill Street (203) 754-7601	

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