

Through years of research and practice, the propane industry has identified

Three Things That Are Critical To Keeping You Safe:

1. Don't let a tank run out of propane. If the tank does run out, it is imperative to perform a leak check before returning the tank to service. Replacing regulators and performing leak checks takes time, so CPI drivers work hard to meet your propane needs so your tank doesn't run out of fuel.

2. Perform a leak test on the propane system once every 5 years even if there are no indications of a problem or leak. CPI provides regularly scheduled leak tests to our customers and we won't bill you for your 5-year leak test. However, regulator replacements and any necessary repairs will be your responsibility. We will discuss necessary repairs (and the estimated charges) with you before performing the work.

3. Replace all regulators when they reach the manufacturer's recommended replacement age. Many manufacturers recommend replacing a propane regulator after 15 years. Keeping them in service past this point presents a safety risk, even if they still seem to be working fine. If your regulator is out of date, it must be replaced if we are to keep servicing your home.

Regulator Purpose

The propane gas regulator is one of the most important parts of a propane gas system. The regulator not only acts as a control regarding the flow and distribution of propane but also as a safety barrier between the high pressure of the tank and the end use appliance(s).

Propane tank pressure can range from under 10 psig to over 200 psig. Residential applications will generally require 11 inches water column (amount of pressure required to push a column of water up 11 inches in a manometer, or about 6.3 ounces per square inch) and the regulator compensates for these pressure differences in the tank to supply a steady flow of required pressure to the household appliances. In summary, the purpose of a propane regulator is to "bottleneck" the propane down to a safe and usable pressure.

People don't realize that buying a LP gas regulator from a friend or an internet site will more than likely result in wasted money. Regardless of what one may think, regulators aren't all the same and an improper regulator or faulty LP gas regulator installation means the entire installation is illegal and unable to be serviced until fixed. Keep in mind that replacing the regulator means interrupting the flow of gas and a leak check is required before the gas can be turned back on. Don't put yourself in danger by attempting to buy and install your own regulator. Call your propane company or a licensed LP gas plumber. It will be safer and cheaper in the long run.

Regulator Protection And Replacement

Like any part of a propane system, the regulator needs to be protected. Protecting a regulator, for the most part means keeping it covered. Regulators are generally found under the tank dome or if installed outside the dome, they will have the vent pointed down. The vent is pointed down to prevent rain, ice and debris from entering the regulator. The vent should have a screen that keeps insects out of the regulator as some insects, such as the Mud Dauber (a.k.a. Dirt Dauber) will make a nest in a regulator that's missing its protective vent screen. Unprotected regulators that are exposed or not pointed with the vent facing down can easily be protected by cutting an empty plastic milk bottle to fit over the regulator until its placement and position can be corrected.

Regulators have internal moving parts that are subject to wear and tear, so the regulator needs to be replaced after some time. Propane companies can tell consumers when the regulator needs to be replaced due to age or malfunction and the consumer needs to take this advice seriously. The industry norm is 15 years before a regulator needs replacement, while some regulator manufacturers recommend replacement every 25 years. If any regulator has ever been under water, such as on an underground propane tank, it needs to be replaced immediately. One very important fact to point out is that although propane regulators may be adjusted by licensed propane professionals, they are not repaired or subject to repair. They are replaced.

