

PATIO HEATER

SAFETY GUIDELINES

DO'S and DON'TS for using patio heaters, open-flame appliances and propane cylinders.

Knowing how to use patio heaters and open-flame appliances safely will help everyone enjoy outdoor dining and socializing — while avoiding the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and fire, if used improperly.

KEEP THEM OUTSIDE

PATIO HEATERS ARE DESIGNED FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY

NEVER use them indoors or within an enclosed structure to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

ALWAYS ensure areas are well ventilated.

KEEP THEM STABLE

DO make sure heaters are on a stable surface so they don't get knocked over.

DON'T install heaters on grass or an uneven sidewalk, or near the edge of an elevated platform.

MOVE THEM WITH CARE

NEVER move portable heaters while the flame is lit. Make sure the fuel supply is properly shut off and the unit is cool before relocating.

ALWAYS use caution when moving propane cylinders to avoid dropping or impact.

LOOK UP AND AROUND

DO install heaters in compliance with manufacturers' instructions for required clearances above, around and underneath heaters.

DO look up and around to ensure proper distancing is maintained from combustible materials such as umbrellas, awnings, walls, tablecloths, paper products, decorations, signs, etc.

DON'T obstruct firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or fire department connections, and make sure heaters are properly distanced from building air intakes.

DO make sure propane cylinders are not stored near operating heaters or smoking areas. A cylinder is considered to be in storage when not connected to an appliance.

PATIO HEATERS IN SHELTERS

Maintain required clearance from combustible materials including shelter walls and overhead covers. To avoid the hazard of carbon monoxide poisoning, the shelter must either*:



Have walls on all sides but no overhead cover.



Have an overhead cover but no more than two side walls in parallel or at right angles.



Have an overhead cover and three side walls as long as 30% of the perimeter is permanently open.

NOTE: Check with local public health departments for shelter requirements for COVID-19 prevention.

*As per ANSI Z83.26/CSA 2.37



KEEP AN EYE ON THEM

NEVER LEAVE patio heaters unattended.

Exercise additional caution when children or intoxicated adults are in the area.



INFORM OPERATORS OF SAFE OPERATING PRACTICES

Be sure that all staff are familiarized with the safe operation of patio heaters.

To ensure your guests stay safe while enjoying the comfort of your outdoor patio, **DO** make sure all operators understand how to:

- ✓ Safely install and operate heaters according to the manufacturers' instructions
- ✓ Identify hazards - fire and carbon monoxide poisoning
- ✓ Safely light, turn off and move heaters
- ✓ Safely connect, disconnect, move, store and transport propane cylinders
- ✓ Detect leaks in hoses, valves and fittings
- ✓ Prepare equipment for inclement weather
- ✓ Respond to an emergency including the location of fire extinguishers and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (nausea, dizziness, headache)

✓ FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Be sure to locate sufficient, easily accessible, fire extinguishers in the patio area.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in shelters where heaters are in use.

Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms located inside buildings are working properly.

✓ SAFETY CERTIFIED

Make sure your equipment is certified by the CSA, ULC or other recognized certification body. A list of approved certification marks can be found at www.tssa.org.

✓ INSTALL THEM PROPERLY

All units must be installed as per the manufacturer's instructions. All fuel-fired heating units that serve the public must be installed by a TSSA-certified technician.



HOW TO TEST PROPANE CYLINDERS FOR LEAKS

PROPANE CYLINDER SAFETY

PROPANE CYLINDERS SHOULD NEVER BE STORED INDOORS.

- ✓ If you need to store your patio heater indoors for security reasons, remove the propane cylinder first.
- ✓ Store propane cylinders upright and protect them against tampering, unauthorized movement, dropping or impact that could result in a leak or fire. Propane cylinders that are not connected to an appliance are considered to be in storage.
- ✓ Stored propane cylinders must be safeguarded with tamper-proof, vehicle-proof protection, such as a locked cage or fenced-in area.
- ✗ Do not store propane cylinders indoors, in a garage, close to operational heaters, or near smoking areas.
- ✓ Familiarize operators with safe practices for propane cylinder installation, disconnection and leak detection as well as emergency procedures.
- ✗ Propane cylinders must not exceed the manufacturer's recommended propane cylinder size (generally 20 pounds = approximately 10 hours of operation).
- ✓ Stockpiles of up to twenty-five 20-pound cylinders must be located at least one metre (three feet) from any building opening and three metres (10 feet) from any sidewalk, air intake and adjoining property occupied by schools, churches, hospitals, athletic fields or other points of gathering.
- ✓ Up to five 20-pound propane cylinders may be transported in a vehicle provided they are safely secured in an upright position in the passenger compartment, secured in a trunk with the trunk lid propped open, or secured in the ventilated box of a truck.
- ✓ Transportation of more than five 20-pound propane cylinders must be conducted according to Transport Canada Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations.

When installing fuel cylinders, always test for leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to all propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, gas may be leaking. Tighten the connection and retest. If bubbles reappear, contact a TSSA-certified technician to repair or replace damaged parts.

This guideline may be used for informational purposes only and may be revised or withdrawn at any time. Use of this guideline does not replace or relieve installers, operators and owners from the requirements and responsibilities relating to appliance installation and operating instructions and compliance with applicable codes and regulations. TSSA accepts no legal responsibility for any reliance on this guideline or arising from the use of this guideline, including direct or indirect liability.

PUTTING PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

1. Boilers and pressure vessels and operating engineers

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) delivers public safety services on behalf of the Government of Ontario in three key sectors:

2. Elevating devices, amusement devices and ski lifts

3. Fuels



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1-877-682-8772
TSSA.org
customerservices@tssa.org

🐦 @TSSAOntario
📘 TSSA – Technical Standards & Safety Authority
📺 TSSA (Technical Standards & Safety Authority)
📍 Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA)