

Licensing Requirements:

Oregon law requires all companies and persons installing propane tanks, piping or equipment to be licensed through the Office of State Fire Marshal. Part of the licensing process is passing a written exam that shows knowledge of propane, its properties, related equipment, fire codes, and safety regulations. Homeowners are not exempt from licensing requirements.

Office of State Fire Marshal Inspections:

Propane companies are required to report all propane tanks they install to the Office of State Fire Marshal. Oregon law also requires the Office of State Fire Marshal to inspect a reasonable number of newly installed residential propane tanks. These inspections involve checking many different components of your tank installation. Detailed inspections of new propane tanks help ensure that tanks are installed correctly and according to fire code requirements. This inspection benefits you as a homeowner so you can take comfort in knowing your tank does not have any fire code violations or costly leaks.

Consumers Beware:

Although your propane system may be in compliance with the applicable fire codes and standards, **actions by consumers or contractors** may put the installation out of compliance. In liability cases the responsibility may fall on those who have violated a code. For example, insurance companies may be reluctant to pay out fire-related settlements if a code violation is discovered.

For your safety and protection, here is WHAT NOT TO DO!

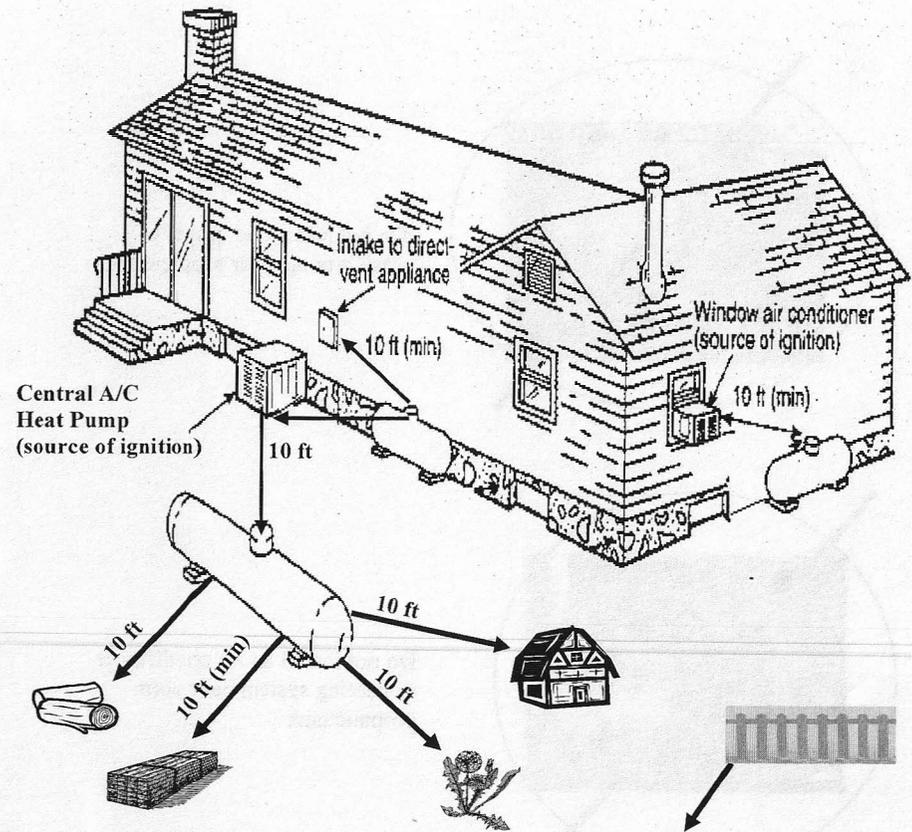
Do Not: Install, repair or modify your propane system. All persons installing propane tanks, piping or equipment must be licensed.

Do Not: Construct a building within 10 feet of propane tanks that have 125 gallons or more water capacity. **Note:** Building code officials inspect using either the Oregon Residential Specialty Code or the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, but these codes do not cover all the requirements for propane tank installations. So even if your building has been approved by building officials, there may still be fire code violations because of improper distances from the building to your propane tank. Additional requirements may apply on tanks over 500 gallons.

Do Not: Stack, pile or place fire wood, lumber or any combustible materials within 10 feet of a propane tank. Tall dead grass, brush or weeds need to be cleared back 10 feet from the tank. Live vegetation is ok.

Do Not: Install or have installed electrical devices (including heat pumps, AC units, electrical outlets, lights & direct vents) that may be sources of ignition without contacting your supplier or the Office of State Fire Marshal for the appropriate requirements. Be proactive during new construction. Contractors installing heat pumps, AC units, lights or direct vent appliances may not be aware of the distances required by fire code. This could be costly to homeowners when propane containers or AC units have to be moved.

Do Not: Build a structure around or over a propane tank without knowing the specific requirements. If you desire to conceal your propane tank, you may use lattice fencing. Lattice fencing with baseboard must have 6 inches of space between the bottom of the fence and the ground. Baseboards can trap gas in the unlikely event of a leak. You also may construct fencing on one or two sides (leaving 50% of the perimeter open).



If you would like to construct fencing completely around your tank (or for more than 50% of the perimeter), the following strict requirements must be followed for safety reasons:

There must be 3 feet or more from the edge of the container and the fence on all sides.

Exception: 3 feet may be reduced to 18 inches on wood fencing when spacing between vertical boards allows 25% of the container's perimeter to be open: example 2" space between vertical boards that are 4 inches wide, 3" space between vertical boards that are 6 inches wide.

The fence cannot be more than 12 inches higher than the lid or dome.

The fence cannot be more than 6 feet high.

There must be at least 6 inches of open space between the ground and the bottom of the fence.

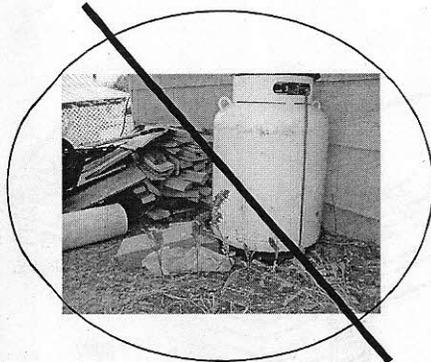
Only certain sizes of tanks are allowed to be next to a building. If the installing company has installed your tank next to your house or building, the same fencing requirements apply to the 3 sides.

Keep any gates unlocked for quick access in case of emergency.

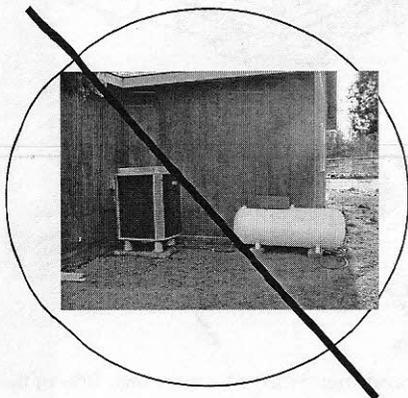
Do not store anything inside of the fenced area.

Keep grass and weeds mowed down to minimize a fire hazard.

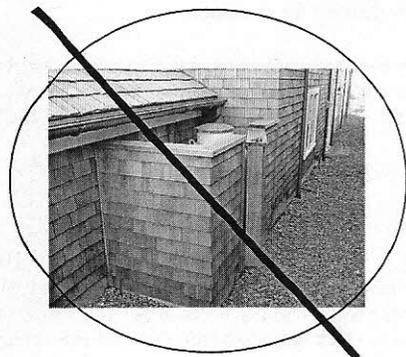
NOTE: Pre-existing structures are not exempt or grandfathered from fencing requirements. Hazards may exist if a pre-existing fence does not meet the installation requirements. Structures around or over containers may interfere with a fire departments ability to apply water or get to the shut off valve in an emergency. Structures may also trap gas if a leak were to occur. Gas that can accumulate is much more dangerous than gas that can dissipate.



Do not pile wood, paper or trash around your propane tank



Do not install an air conditioner or heating system near your propane tank



Do not enclose your tank on more than two sides (leave 50% of the perimeter open)

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (PROPANE)

RESIDENTIAL TANK INSTALLATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
PROPANE TANK INSTALLATION



OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

LICENSE & PERMIT SERVICES UNIT

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