



Underground Propane Tanks

An underground propane tank is safe, easy to maintain, and affordable to install.

Overview

Propane is a domestically produced low-carbon energy source that emits fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline, diesel, and electricity in many applications. It is nontoxic and insoluble in water. Because it is released as a gas, it doesn't spill, pool, or leave a residue. This means that, in the unlikely event of a release, propane is not harmful to soil or water.

The Clean Air Act of 1990 designates propane as a clean alternative fuel. Because it is colorless and virtually odorless, manufacturers add an identifying odor so it can be readily detected.

These characteristics make storing propane in underground tanks especially appealing for homeowners seeking an environmentally friendly, reliable energy supply that supports many of the most efficient appliances and heating systems on the market.

Underground Propane Tanks: The Smart Choice

- Propane tanks, which can hold from 125 to more than 1,000 gallons, are uniquely suited to be buried underground. Unlike aboveground tanks — the performance of which can be affected by extreme weather and temperature — an underground tank is buried in soil with a constant year-round temperature.
- Underground propane tanks are protected from corrosion by the use of a cathodic protection system that protects them from electrolysis. Most local codes require periodic system testing.
- Tank installations must meet stringent codes developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the international authority on fire and building safety codes and standards.
- Delivery technicians and other qualified personnel can easily access tank fittings and connections through a small dome that is visible just inches above the ground.
- Underground propane tanks are installed and maintained by propane retailers, who inspect the tank each time a delivery is made. Properly installed and maintained underground propane tanks can have a useful service life of several decades.

Conclusion

An underground propane tank is safe, easy to maintain, and affordable to install. Because propane is nontoxic and insoluble in water, it will not contaminate soil or water if accidentally released. A further benefit: propane produces less than half as many greenhouse gas emissions as using an equivalent amount of electricity.

For more information

Find out more about underground tanks and propane systems by taking our free online CEU courses at www.propanetrainingacademy.com. The topics mentioned in this fact sheet are covered in the following courses:

[Community Propane Systems: Economic, Environmentally Responsible Energy without Geographic Limits](#)

[Propane Gas Underground Systems: Residential Infrastructure Requirements and Energy Benefits](#)

For additional information on underground propane tanks, visit www.buildwithpropane.com/tankbasics.