



# 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 well into the fall and winter season — while avoiding the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and fire.

#### KEEP THEM OUTSIDE

**PATIO HEATERS ARE DESIGNED FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY**

**NEVER** use them indoors or within an enclosed structure such as a tent to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**PROPANE CYLINDERS SHOULD NEVER BE STORED INDOORS.**

They must be stored upright and safeguarded with tamper-proof, vehicle-proof protection, such as a locked cage or fenced-in area.

If you need to store your patio heater indoors for security reasons, remove the propane cylinder first.

#### LOOK UP AND AROUND

**DO** install heaters according to the manufacturers' instructions regarding ceiling height clearance and proper distancing from any fire hazards, building openings or mechanical air intakes.

Fire hazards can be located around, above or underneath heating units and can include combustible materials such as umbrellas, awnings, tent walls, tablecloths, paper products, decorations, etc.

**DON'T** position patio heaters next to or in the path of an exit, including fire escapes. Do not obstruct firefighting equipment such as fire hydrants and fire department connections.

**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.

#### 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.

Make sure all free-standing units have an anti-tilt feature.

#### 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 cool before relocating.

**USE CAUTION** when moving propane cylinders to avoid dropping or impact.



#### KEEP AN EYE ON THEM

**NEVER LEAVE** patio heaters unattended. Additional caution should be used when children or inebriated adults are in the vicinity.

#### 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 DETECTORS

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

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



## SAFETY CERTIFIED

Make sure your equipment is certified by the CSA/ULC or other recognized testing laboratory and meets the requirements of TSSA Act 2000.



## INSTALL THEM PROPERLY

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



## HOW TO TEST PROPANE CYLINDERS FOR LEAKS

## PROPANE CYLINDER SAFETY

- ✓ 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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✗ Do not store propane cylinders indoors, close to operational heaters or near smoking areas.
- ✓ Stored propane cylinders must be safeguarded with tamper-proof, vehicle-proof protection, such as a locked cage or fenced-in area.
- ✓ Stockpiles of up to 25 20-pound cylinders must be located at least three feet from any building opening and 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 safety secured in an upright position in the passenger compartment with the windows open or secured in the box of a truck.
- ✓ Transportation of five or more 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.

## PUTTING PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

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

1. Boilers and pressure vessels and operating engineers

2. Elevating devices, amusement devices and ski lifts

3. Fuels



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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