

# Gas barbecue safety tips

Look before you cook



Creating a safer state  
with electricity and gas

# A **faulty gas barbecue** can burn more than just your sausages.

## **Remember to look before you cook.**

Gas barbecues can be dangerous if not maintained properly. LP Gas is highly flammable and easily ignited—gas escaping from your barbecue can lead to explosions or fires. This brochure tells you how to maintain and use your gas barbecue safely including checking for gas leaks prior to cooking.

### **Tip**

New barbecues need to be assembled carefully. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and check that your connections are tight. Look before you cook and make it a regular habit.

## **How to check your barbecue for leaks**

Check regularly for gas leaks to make sure your gas connections are tight. You can do this by using a squirt bottle or a brush to coat the gas connections and hoses with soapy water. You should pay special attention to the left hand thread connection between the gas cylinder and the appliance—it is the most common cause of gas leaks. Make sure it's tight and in good condition.

### **If bubbles start forming, there is a leak. Turn off the gas at the cylinder.**

Disconnect the left hand thread connection and check the faces are clean. Leaks occur due to damaged or missing O rings or rubber bull nosing, or where connections are not correctly tightened. Always take care when reconnecting. Turn the gas back on and test again with soapy water. If there are still bubbles forming, do not use the barbecue. You will need to replace the hose and regulator assembly; contact a licensed gasfitter to do this.

A gas barbecue incident occurs on average **once a day** during summer.

## Tips for maintaining your barbecue



### 1. Check your cylinder

Safe, refilled cylinders are available from many outlets for exchange. When connecting a cylinder to your barbecue, check that the rubber O ring or rubber bull nosing, if fitted to your regulator and hose assembly, is present and in good condition.

### 2. Check ventilation

Gas appliances need adequate ventilation. Never use a barbecue designed for outdoor use inside a caravan, tent, garage or house.

### 3. Close the cylinder

After you have finished using your barbecue you should always close the cylinder valve first before turning off the barbecue burners.

### 4. Clean your barbecue regularly.

Remove fat build-up.



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## Tip

Gas appliances need adequate ventilation — never use a barbecue inside a caravan, tent, garage or house.

## Quick contacts

Check [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au) or call **1800 652 563** for safety advice and servicing information.

## Barbecue safety checklist

Checked

Keep barbecues clean and in good condition.

Never use damaged cylinders or cylinders past their test date (more than 10-years old) as these cannot be refilled.

Regularly check that hose and pipe connections are in good condition, fit snugly and are not blocked.

Get into the habit of checking for gas leaks using soapy water.

When connecting a cylinder to your barbecue, check the rubber O ring or rubber bull nosing, if fitted to your regulator and hose assembly, is present and in good condition.

Only use approved or certified hoses and connections designed for gas—never use home-made ones.

If the barbecue doesn't light properly, turn off the gas supply and leave for five minutes to allow unburnt gas to disperse before trying again.

Keep a fire extinguisher and fire blanket nearby.

Never use a barbecue designed for outdoor use indoors and always ensure adequate ventilation.

Check cylinders are turned off before disconnecting hoses and pipes.

Store cylinders upright, safely away from heat and never in your car.

When transporting cylinders store them upright and supported in the boot of your car so they can't tip over.

For further information go to  
**[www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au)** or phone  
ESV on **1800 652 563**.

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