



# What is Propane?

**Propane** is the gas we use to fuel our backyard grills. It's a lot like natural gas—you can't see it, or smell it, or taste it. But you can burn it to make heat energy.

Propane has been around for millions of years, but no one knew it. It is buried underground mixed in with natural gas or petroleum.

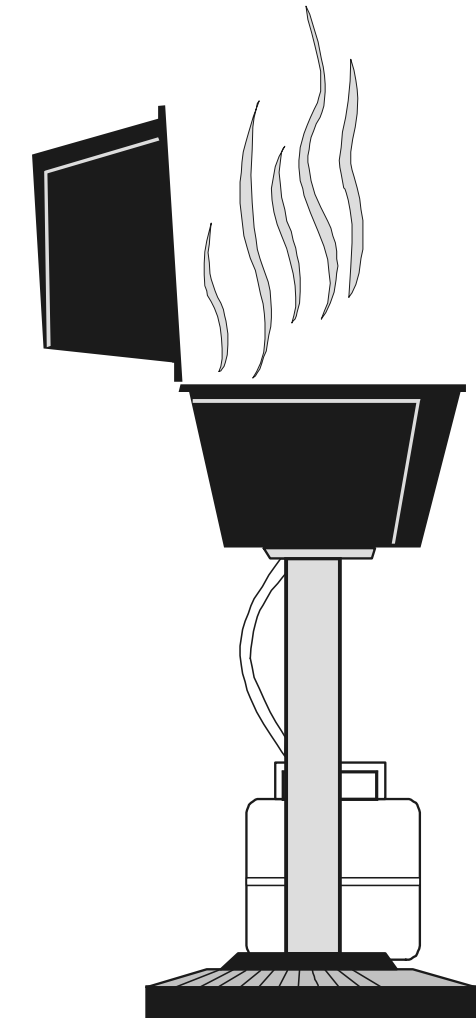
Propane wasn't discovered until 1912. The scientists knew they had found a good new energy source. One year later, people were using it to heat their homes.

## PROPANE IS A FOSSIL FUEL

Propane is a **fossil fuel**. It was formed millions of years ago, long before the dinosaurs. Like oil and gas, it was formed from tiny sea animals and plants.

The plants got their energy from the sun. This is the energy in propane. Propane's energy came from the sun.

Propane is found underground—mixed with natural gas and petroleum. It is separated out at cleaning plants and oil refineries.



## PROPANE IS NONRENEWABLE

The propane we burn today was made a long time ago. It took millions of years to form. We can't make more propane in a short time. It is a **nonrenewable** source of energy.

We get propane from petroleum and natural gas. Our supply of propane depends on our supply of those energy sources.



## WE USE PROPANE EVERY DAY

Half of the farms in the United States use propane to dry crops, run tractors and heat barns. Businesses use propane for heating and cooking. Most vehicles that we drive inside buildings use propane for fuel. It is a clean fuel. It doesn't pollute the air.



Some people in the country can't get natural gas pipelines to their homes. They use propane instead. They put big propane tanks outside their houses. Small trucks bring the propane right to their houses.

## PROPANE IS PORTABLE

When propane comes out of the ground, it is a gas. But when it is put under **pressure**, it becomes a liquid. A lot more liquid can be put into a tank than gas. A tank of propane gas might last a week. The same sized tank of liquid propane would last five years!

Liquid propane is easy to move from place to place in tanks. It is **portable**—that means easy to move. We use small tanks of propane for our barbecue grills. One tank can last all summer.

## PROPANE IS A CLEAN FUEL

Some cars and buses use propane for fuel. It is a very clean fuel. It doesn't pollute the air like gasoline does. Engines must be changed to use propane, though, and that is expensive. There aren't many propane filling stations either.

