



Buying Propane For Your Barbeque



How Is It Sold?

In Canada, several methods of sale have been used for filling propane cylinders. The following four methods of sale were deemed to be acceptable in the past:

- Propane sold by volume, on the basis of the quantity delivered.
- Propane sold by weight, on the basis of the quantity delivered.
- Cylinder exchange programs, where an empty cylinder is exchanged for a cylinder that has been filled and marked with a net weight prior to being offered for sale.
- Propane sold at a fixed price for filling a cylinder to 42 percent of its marked water capacity (WC), commonly referred to as the “fill” method. For many years, this was the most common method of sale. Using this method, you paid a flat fee on the premise that your cylinder would be filled to 42 percent of its marked WC, regardless of whether the cylinder contained any residual propane or not. A typical example of this was the “20 pound fill” for “X” dollars.

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January 2000 And The “Fill” Method

The “fill” method of sale is no longer acceptable due to the introduction of internal safety mechanisms, called Overfill Prevention Devices (OPDs), installed in propane cylinders since 1998. Overfill Prevention Devices, which are becoming more and more prevalent, will prevent cylinders from being filled to their nominal capacity (42 percent WC). As a result, since January 1, 2000, retailers have been required to use one of the three remaining methods of sale listed above. These are all based on the net quantity delivered.

To Receive Accurate Measure

When you have your cylinder filled, it is most likely to be done on the basis of weight. Whether you have an older cylinder or a newer one equipped with an OPD, you can expect the following:

- the scale will be positioned so you can clearly view the measurement process and results;
- the scale will bear a Weights and Measures verification mark, indicating that it has been inspected;
- the attendant will weigh your cylinder and any residual propane (empty weight), without the delivery hose attached;
- the attendant will connect the delivery hose and fill the cylinder while it sits on the scale;

- either the attendant or the OPD, if so equipped, will stop the filling process when the quantity of propane in the cylinder has reached the maximum safe fill level;
- the attendant will remove the delivery hose and reweigh your cylinder (filled weight);
- you will be informed of the amount of propane that has been delivered into your cylinder (filled weight minus empty weight); and
- if you are not present during the measurement process, you will be provided with a written or printed statement of the quantity of propane delivered.

Basic safety precautions should always be followed when transporting and/or storing a propane cylinder.

Safety First

Basic safety precautions should always be followed when transporting and/or storing a propane cylinder. For instance, cylinders should always be transported and stored in an upright and secured position, in a well-ventilated area.

For More Information

For more information, please contact the Measurement Canada office nearest you. We are listed in the blue pages of your telephone directory. You can also visit us online at www.mc.ic.gc.ca.

