

Safety Tip of the Month: July

PROPANE-HEATED POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS OFFER WATER FUN & RELAXATION

Summer Safety Tips When Using Propane Heaters

Many Americans are choosing propane gas to heat indoor and outdoor swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. The following safety tips, prepared by the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), will help ensure that water enthusiasts use propane safely and responsibly.

1. Propane pool heaters should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with state and local building or fire codes. Follow local regulations for the safe connection, use and storage of propane products. To ensure safety, have a professional service technician install gas appliances.
2. When lighting the pilot or turning the heater on or off, refer to the manufacturer's instructions on the name and rating plate. This should be attached to the heater inside the control compartment.
3. Do not place or drape towels, swimsuits or clothing on or near the heater. It is not meant to be used as a dryer. Anything blocking ventilation can cause severe problems including fire or a breakdown of the heating system.
4. Inspect your propane heater periodically to make sure it is burning cleanly, is free of leaks and is well vented. Contact your local propane supplier to schedule a Gas Appliance System Check (GAS Check®) on your heater and other propane-fueled home appliances to ensure that your heating system is working properly.
5. Become familiar with the 'rotten egg' odor of propane gas, a special safety additive (the gas is naturally odorless) for the detection of leaks.
6. Finally, if you do smell gas, whether the heater is operating or not, follow these steps:
 - Do not touch electric switches, light matches or use the phone.
 - Exit the pool or spa and the building or area immediately.
 - Call your propane supplier or fire department from a nearby telephone.