

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Consumers are encouraged to check their propane cylinders to ensure they are still eligible to be filled with propane as of April 1, 2002. The State Fire Marshal has adopted the National Fire Protection Association standards regarding 4 to 40 pound DOT propane cylinders. These cylinders are required to be equipped with an overfill prevention device (OPD) not later than April 1, 2002.

Cylinders that do not have an OPD can be fitted with an OPD or exchanged for an OPD equipped cylinder at one of many exchange sites or licensed propane dealers located throughout Oregon.

Cylinders manufactured prior to October 1, 1998 are not equipped with an OPD. To continue using cylinders manufactured prior to this date, an OPD must be installed when the cylinder is requalified. Cylinders that do not have an OPD after April 1, 2002 cannot be filled with propane regardless of the date of requalification.

To determine if a cylinder is qualified for filling with propane gas, look for the following information as shown in Figures A and B.

Figure A shows a cylinder manufactured prior to October 1, 1998. The handwheel has five points and the date stamped on the ring around the handwheel is December 1994. By April 1, 2002, this cylinder must have an OPD installed or it cannot be filled with propane gas.

Figure B shows a cylinder manufactured after October 1, 1998. It is equipped with an OPD as shown by the handwheel, which has three points. Notice the recent date of September 2000 on the top ring.

Figure A
Old Style Handwheel & Valve Assembly



Figure B
New Style Handwheel & Valve Assembly



HOW THE OPD WORKS

Figure C shows a cut away cylinder. This provides a side view of how the arm float OPD can shut off flow of incoming fuel as a backup to reduce overfilling cylinders.

Figure C



Figure D shows DOT horizontal cylinders designed for use in the horizontal position. If fabricated before October 1, 1998, they are exempt from the OPD regulation.

Figure D



OPD IDENTIFICATION

Figures E and F are a side view of two styles of OPD's with a triobular handwheel.

Figure E (ball float type OPD)



Figure F (Arm or lever float OPD)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. Where can outdated cylinders be taken to have an OPD installed?**
- A. Companies licensed by the State Fire Marshal can install an OPD and requalify the cylinder for continued use.
- Q. Where can cylinders that do not have an OPD and that are not going to be fitted with an OPD be taken for disposal?**
- A. Non OPD cylinders can be taken to any licensed propane company for proper disposal.

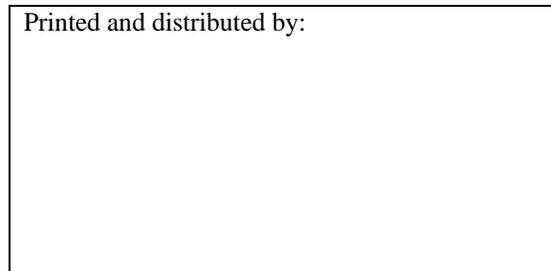
- Q. Can cylinders be discarded at recycling or transfer centers?**
- A. Yes, if they do not contain propane and the transfer center is set up to accept the cylinders.
- Q. Can I leave my propane cylinder at the curbside for my local garbage company?**
- A. No. Exception: A designated Household Hazardous Chemicals Event. Check with your garbage company for specific events.
- Q. Who can I contact for additional information?**
- A. A list of government and private businesses is listed below.
- Q. Is the OPD used to determine the filling capacity of my propane cylinder?**
- A. No. Cylinders are still filled by measuring propane weight or volume. The OPD is a back-up safety device to prevent cylinder over filling.

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
License and Permits Section
(503) 934-8278

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Northwest Region Office
(503) 229-5353 for nearest DEQ office.

- LICENSED PROPANE COMPANIES
 - LANDFILLS
 - RECYCLING & TRANSFER CENTERS
- Consult the yellow pages for your area or contact the Office of State Fire Marshal at the number listed above.

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**IS YOUR PROPANE
CYLINDER SAFE?
CHECK OUT OPDs**

**OFFICE OF
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
OREGON STATE POLICE**



**LICENSE AND PERMITS SECTION
PROPANE UNIT**

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Fax: (503) 373-1825
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