# THE PROPANE TECHNICAL POCKE GUIDE 

FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION


DATA AND GUIDANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
( PROPANE EDUCATION \& RESEARCH COUNCIL

## The Propane Technical Pocket Guide

The Propane Technical Pocket Guide provides general information on how to prepare for the installation of propane systems for residential and commercial consumers. It includes key data and answers important questions relevant to construction professionals planning to incorporate propane in their construction projects.

This guide is not intended to conflict with federal, state, or local ordinances or pertinent industry regulations, including National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] 54 and 58. These should be observed at all times.

The Propane Technical Pocket Guide must not be considered a replacement for proper training on the installation and start-up of propane systems. Propane system installations should always be performed by trained propane professionals. For more information go to your local propane professional or propanesafety.com.

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## Propane Resources

## Buildwithpropane.com

Construction pros should visit buildwithpropane.com to check out the latest news and insights on building products and trends, learn how to install and operate propane equipment, and find information on construction-related events, conferences, and conventions.

## Propane Training Academy

The Propane Education \& Research Council [PERC] provides free continuing education courses on propane and its many residential and commercial applications, installation specifics, and products, approved by the American Institute of Architects [AIA], National Association of Home Builders [NAHB], U.S. Green Building Council [USGBC], and National Association of the Remodeling Industry [NARI]. Fulfill your CEU requirements today at buildwithpropane .com/training.

## Propanesafety.com

Training and informing industry professionals and consumers on the safe handling, storage, and use of propane is a top priority at PERC. PERC's safety website provides training, resources, and compliance materials.

## Find a Propane Retailer - usepropane.com/fpr.aspx

A trained professional can give you answers to your questions about propane applications. Use this handy online tool to find a propane retailer in your area, and you'll be on your way to a successful, professional propane project.

## National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] — nfpa.org

National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] standards govern the use of propane and gas in buildings. Visit nfpa.org for the latest information.

## Properties of Propane and Natural Gas [Methane]

| Table 1A. Approximate Properties of Gases [U.S.] |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Propane | Natural Gas |
|  | $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{4}$ |
| Initial Boiling Point | -44 | -259 |
| Specific Gravity of Liquid [Water at 1.0] at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 0.504 | n/a |
| Weight per Gallon of Liquid at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, LB | 4.2 | n/a |
| Specific Heat of Liquid, Btu/LB at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 0.63 | n/a |
| Cubic Feet of Vapor per Gallon at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 36.38 | n/a |
| Cubic Feet of Vapor per Pound at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 8.66 | 23.55 |
| Specific Gravity of Vapor $\text { [Air }=1.0 \text { ] at } 60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| Ignition Temperature in Air, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 920-1,120 | 1,301 |
| Maximum Flame Temperature in Air, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 3,595 | 2,834 |
| Cubic Feet of Air Required to Burn One Cubic Foot of Gas | 23.68 | 9.57 |
| Limits of Flammability in Air, \% of Vapor in Air-Gas Mix: <br> [a] Lower <br> [b] Upper | $\begin{gathered} 2.15 \\ 9.6 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5 \\ 15 \end{gathered}$ |
| Latent Heat of Vaporization at Boiling Point: <br> [a] Btu per Pound <br> [b] Btu per Gallon | $\begin{aligned} & 184 \\ & 773 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 219 \\ & \text { n/a } \end{aligned}$ |
| Total Heating Values After Vaporization: <br> [a] Btu per Cubic Foot <br> [b] Btu per Pound <br> [c] Btu per Gallon | $\begin{gathered} 2,488 \\ 21,548 \\ 91,502 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1,012 \\ 28,875 \\ \text { n/a } \end{gathered}$ |

Properties of Propane and Natural Gas [Methane] [Continued]

| Table 1B. Approximate Properties of Gases [Metric] |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PROPERTY | Propane | Natural Gas |
|  | $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{4}$ |
| Initial Boiling Point, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | -42 | -162 |
| Specific Gravity of Liquid [Water at 1.0 ] at $15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 0.504 | n/a |
| Weight per Cubic Meter of Liquid at $15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{kg}$ | 504 | n/a |
| Specific Heat of Liquid, Kilojoule/Kilogram at $15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 1.464 | n/a |
| Cubic Meter of Vapor per Liter at $15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 0.271 | n/a |
| Cubic Meter of Vapor per Kilogram at $15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 0.539 | 1.470 |
| Specific Gravity of Vapor $\text { (Air }=1.0 \text { ] at } 15.56^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 1.50 | 0.56 |
| Ignition Temperature in Air, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 493-604 | 705 |
| Maximum Flame Temperature in Air, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 1,980 | 1,557 |
| Cubic Meters of Air Required to Burn One Cubic Meter of Gas | 23.86 | 9.57 |
| Limits of Flammability in Air, \% of Vapor in Air-Gas Mix: <br> [a] Lower <br> [b] Upper | $\begin{gathered} 2.15 \\ 9.6 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.0 \\ 15.0 \end{gathered}$ |
| Latent Heat of Vaporization at Boiling Point: <br> [a] Kilojoule per Kilogram <br> [b] Kilojoule per Liter | $\begin{aligned} & 428 \\ & 216 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 509 \\ & \mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a} \end{aligned}$ |
| Total Heating Values After Vaporization: <br> [a] Kilojoule per Cubic Meter <br> [b] Kilojoule per Kilogram <br> [c] Kilojoule per Liter | $\begin{aligned} & 92,430 \\ & 49,920 \\ & 25,140 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 37,706 \\ 55,533 \\ \mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a} \end{gathered}$ |


| Table 1C. Energy Content and Environmental Impact |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| of Various Energy Sources |  |  |  |  |  |

*Source Energy Multiplier is the total units of energy that go into generation, processing, and delivery for a particular energy source to produce one unit of energy at the site. The high source energy multiplier for electricity is due in part to transmission and distribution losses that do not occur with propane.

## Vapor Pressure of Gas

Vapor pressure can be defined as the force exerted by a gas or liquid attempting to escape from a container. It is what forces propane gas from the container through the piping and regulator system to the appliance.

Outside temperature affects the propane vapor pressure in the container. A lower temperature creates lower propane vapor pressure in the container. If container pressure is too low, not enough gas will reach the appliance. Placement of the container below grade can help alleviate wide swings in vapor pressures during the year due to the consistent temperature of the earth.

The table below shows vapor pressures for propane and butane at various outside temperatures.

| Table 2. Vapor Pressures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TEMPERATURE |  | Approximate Vapor Pressure, PSIG [bar] Propane $\qquad$ to $\qquad$ Butane |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 100\% | 80/20 | 60/40 | 50/50 | 40/60 | 20/80 | 100\% |
| -40 | -40 | $\begin{gathered} 3.6 \\ {[0.25]} \end{gathered}$ | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| -30 | -34.4 | $\begin{gathered} 8 \\ {[0.55]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.5 \\ {[0.31]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - | - | - | - | - |
| -20 | -28.9 | $\begin{gathered} 13.5 \\ {[0.93]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9.2 \\ {[0.63]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.9 \\ {[0.34]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.9 \\ {[0.13]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - | - | - |
| -10 | -23.3 | $\begin{array}{r} 20 \\ {[1.4]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 16 \\ {[1.1]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9 \\ {[0.62]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6 \\ {[0.41]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5 \\ {[0.24]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - | - |
| 0 | -17.8 | $\begin{gathered} 28 \\ {[1.9]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 22 \\ {[1.5]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 15 \\ {[1.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11 \\ {[0.76]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3 \\ {[0.50]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - | - |
| 10 | -12.2 | $\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ {[2.6]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 29 \\ {[2.0]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 20 \\ {[1.4]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 17 \\ {[1.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13 \\ {[0.90]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.4 \\ {[0.23]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - |
| 20 | -6.7 | $\begin{gathered} 47 \\ {[3.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 36 \\ {[2.5]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 28 \\ {[1.9]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 23 \\ {[1.6]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 18 \\ {[1.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.4 \\ {[0.51]} \end{gathered}$ | - |
| 30 | -1.1 | $\begin{gathered} 58 \\ {[4.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ {[3.1]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ {[2.4]} \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 29 \\ {[2.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24 \\ {[1.7]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13 \\ {[0.9]} \end{gathered}$ |  |
| 40 | 4.4 | $\begin{gathered} 72 \\ {[5.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 58 \\ {[4.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 44 \\ {[3.0]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ {[2.6]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 32 \\ {[2.2]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 18 \\ {[1.2]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3 \\ {[0.21]} \end{gathered}$ |
| 50 | 10 | $\begin{array}{r} 86 \\ {[5.9]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 69 \\ {[4.8]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 53 \\ {[3.7]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 46 \\ {[3.2]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 40 \\ {[2.8]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24 \\ {[1.7]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.9 \\ {[0.58]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 60 | 15.6 | $\begin{aligned} & 102 \\ & {[7.0]} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 80 \\ {[5.5]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 65 \\ {[4.5]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 56 \\ {[3.9]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 49 \\ {[3.4]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 30 \\ {[2.1]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12 \\ {[0.83]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 70 | 21.1 | $\begin{array}{r} 127 \\ {[8.8]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 95 \\ {[6.6]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 78 \\ {[5.4]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 68 \\ {[4.7]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 59 \\ {[4.1]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 38 \\ {[2.6]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 17 \\ {[1.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 80 | 26.7 | $\begin{array}{r} 140 \\ {[9.7]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 125 \\ & {[8.6]} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 90 \\ {[6.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 80 \\ {[5.5]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 70 \\ {[4.8]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 46 \\ {[3.2]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 23 \\ {[1.6]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 90 | 32.2 | $\begin{gathered} 165 \\ {[11.4]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 140 \\ {[9.7]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 112 \\ {[7.7]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 95 \\ {[6.6]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 82 \\ {[5.7]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 56 \\ {[3.9]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 29 \\ {[2.0]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 100 | 37.8 | $\begin{gathered} 196 \\ {[13.5]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 168 \\ {[11.6]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 137 \\ {[9.4]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 123 \\ & {[8.5]} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 100 \\ & {[6.9]} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 69 \\ {[4.8]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 36 \\ {[2.5]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 110 | 43.3 | $\begin{gathered} 220 \\ {[15.2]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 185 \\ {[12.8]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 165 \\ {[11.4]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 148 \\ {[10.2]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 130 \\ {[9.0]} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 80 \\ {[5.5]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 45 \\ {[3.1]} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

Table adapted from LP-Gas Serviceman's Handbook 2012

## Determining Total Load

The best way to determine British thermal unit [Btu] input is from the appliance nameplate or from the manufacturer's catalog. Add the input of all the appliances for the total load. If specific appliance capacity information is not available, refer to Table 3A below. Remember to allow for appliances that may be installed at a later date, especially if a manifold with unused ports is installed. Some examples may include gas outlets for fireplaces and grills and a switch from electric to gas dryer.

If the propane load needs to be in standard cubic feet per hour [SCFH], divide the Btu/hour load by 2,488 to get SCFH. Conversely, the Btu/hour capacity can be obtained from SCFH by multiplying the SCFH figure by 2,488 .

Your propane provider will need to know the total Btu load of the system to be served to properly design the propane system, including determining the proper sizing and distance placement of the propane tank, the location of regulators, and the specifications of the underground high-pressure piping system.

| Table 3A. Approximate Gas Input for Typical Appliances |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| APPLIANCE | Approximate <br> Input Btu/Hour |
| Warm Air Furnace |  |
| Single Family | 100,000 |
| Multifamily, per Unit | 60,000 |
| Hydronic Boiler, Space Heating |  |
| Single Family | 100,000 |
| Multifamily, per Unit | 60,000 |
| Hydronic Boiler, Space and Water Heating |  |
| Single Family | 120,000 |
| Multifamily, per Unit | 75,000 |
| Water Heater, Storage, 30- to 40-Gallon Tank | 35,000 |
| Water Heater, Storage, 50-Gallon Tank | 50,000 |
| Water Heater, Tankless | 142,800 |
| 2 GPM | 285,000 |
| 4 GPM | 428,400 |
| 6 GPM | 35,000 |
| Water Heater, Domestic, Circulating, or Side-Arm | 65,000 |
| Range, Freestanding, Domestic | 25,000 |
| Built-In Oven or Broiler Unit, Domestic | 40,000 |
| Built-In Top Unit, Domestic | 3,000 |
| Refrigerator | 35,000 |
| Clothes Dryer, Type 1 [Domestic] | 40,000 |
| Gas Fireplace, Direct Vent | 80,000 |
| Gas Log | 40,000 |
| Barbecue | 2,500 |
| Gas Light |  |

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## Determining Total Load [Continued]

A variety of mechanical systems are available for space heating and water heating in homes. These systems have varying energy sources and varying efficiency levels. Table 3B below provides simple calculations that allow contractors and homeowners to estimate the dollars per million Btu depending on the equipment type, efficiency, and energy price. The "\$/MMBtu" figure can be compared across different options to evaluate them.

| Table 3B. Operating Costs and Equipment Efficiencies of Residential Space and Water Heating Systems |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SPACE HEATING | Pricing Estimation Formula [\$/MMBtu] | Typical Equipment Efficiency Ranges for Newer Systems |  |
| Propane [furnace or boiler] | $\frac{[10.9 \times \$ / \mathrm{gal}]}{[\mathrm{AFUE} / 100]}$ | AFUE: 78-98 |  |
| Natural Gas <br> [furnace or boiler] | $\frac{[10 \times \$ / \text { therm }]}{[\text { AFUE/100] }}$ | AFUE: 78-98 |  |
| Fuel Oil [furnace or boiler] | $\begin{aligned} & {[7.2 \times \$ / \mathrm{gal}]} \\ & \hline[\mathrm{AFUE} / 100] \end{aligned}$ | AFUE: 78-95 |  |
| Electric Resistance | $293 \times \$ / \mathrm{kWh}$ | COP: 1.0 |  |
| Electric Air Source Heat Pump | $\frac{[1,000 \times \$ / k W h]}{H S P F}$ | HSPF: 7.7-13.0 |  |
| Electric Ground Source Heat Pump | $\frac{[293 \times \$ / \mathrm{kWh}]}{\text { COP }}$ | COP: 3.0-4.7 ${ }^{1}$ |  |
| WATER HEATING | Pricing Estimation Formula [\$/MMBtu] | Typical Storage <br> Water Heater <br> Energy Factors [EF] | Typical Instantaneous Water Heater Energy Factor [EF] |
| Propane | [10.9 $\times$ \$/gal]/EF | 0.59-0.67² | 0.82-0.98 |
| Methane | [10 $\times$ /therm]/EF | 0.59-0.70 ${ }^{2}$ | 0.82-0.98 |
| Fuel Oil | [7.2 $\times$ \$/gal]/EF | 0.51-0.68 | - |
| Electric Resistance | [293 $\times$ \$/kWh]/EF | 0.90-0.95 | 0.93-1.0 |
| Electric Air Source Heat Pump | [293 x \$/kWh]/EF | 2.0-2.51 | - |

${ }^{1}$ Note that COP does not account for pump energy used to move refrigerant through the extensive ground loop.
${ }^{2}$ Residential and commercial units are available with thermal efficiencies up to $97 \%$.

## Vaporization Rates

The factors affecting vaporization include wetted surface area of the container, liquid level in the container, temperature and humidity surrounding the container, and whether the container is aboveground or underground.
The temperature of the liquid is proportional to the outside air temperature, and the wetted surface area is the tank surface area in contact with the liquid. Therefore, when the outside air temperature is lower or the container has less liquid in it, the vaporization rate of the container is a lower value. Underground tanks will experience a more-constant temperature year-round, stabilizing vaporization rates due to the stability of soil temperatures.

To determine the proper size of ASME storage tanks, it is important to consider the lowest winter temperature at the location.

See page 10 for more information.

| Table 4. Propane Storage Tank Capacities <br> and Measurements* |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WATER CAPACITY <br> [GALLONS] | Outside Diameter | Length |  |
| 120 | $24^{\prime \prime}$ | $5^{\prime} 6^{\prime \prime}$ |  |
| 250 | $30 "$ | $7^{\prime \prime} 8^{\prime \prime}$ |  |
| 320 | $32^{\prime \prime}$ | $9^{\prime}$ |  |
| 500 | $38^{\prime \prime}$ | $10^{\prime}$ |  |
| 1,000 | $40^{\prime \prime}$ | $16^{\prime} 8^{\prime \prime}$ |  |
| 2,000 | $49^{\prime \prime}$ | $21^{\prime \prime} 4^{\prime \prime}$ |  |
| 12,000 | $84^{\prime \prime}$ | $44^{\prime} 10^{\prime \prime}$ |  |
| 18,000 | $110^{\prime \prime}$ | $41^{\prime}$ |  |
| 30,000 | $110^{\prime \prime}$ | $66^{\prime}$ |  |
| *These dimensions are only for guidance, as tank sizes <br> and dimensions vary by manufacturer. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

## Vaporization Rates for ASME

## Storage Tanks

A number of assumptions were made in calculating the Btu figures listed in Table 5, noted below:

1. The tank is one-half full.
2. Relative humidity is 70 percent.
3. The tank is under intermittent loading.
4. The tank is located aboveground.

Although none of these conditions may apply, Table 5 can still serve as a good rule of thumb in estimating what a particular tank size will provide under various temperatures. This method uses ASME tank dimensions, liquid level, and a constant value for each 10 percent of liquid to estimate the vaporization capacity of a given tank size at $O$ degrees Fahrenheit. Continuous loading is not a very common occurrence on domestic installations, but under continuous loading the withdrawal rates in Table 5 should be multiplied by 0.25 .

| Table 5. Maximum Intermittent Withdrawal Rate <br> (Btu/Hour) Without Tank Frosting* If Lowest Outdoor <br> Temperature [Average for 24 Hours] Reaches ... |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TEMPERATURE | Tank Size, Gallons [Liters] |  |  |  |  |
|  | 150 [568] | 250 [946] | 500 [1,893] | 1,000 [3,785] |  |
| $40^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 214,900 | 288,100 | 478,800 | 852,800 |
| $30^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 187,000 | 251,800 | 418,600 | 745,600 |
| $20^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 161,800 | 216,800 | 360,400 | 641,900 |
| $10^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-12^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 148,000 | 198,400 | 329,700 | 587,200 |
| $0^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-18^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 134,700 | 180,600 | 300,100 | 534,500 |
| $-10^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-23^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 132,400 | 177,400 | 294,800 | 525,400 |
| $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-29^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 108,800 | 145,800 | 242,300 | 431,600 |
| $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | $-34^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 107,100 | 143,500 | 238,600 | 425,000 |

[^0]
## Propane Jurisdictional Systems

Propane jurisdictional systems, sometimes referred to as community propane systems or master meter systems, typically serve multiple dwellings, buildings, or businesses.


In general, an operator needs to comply with two primary codes when installing, maintaining, and servicing a jurisdictional system:

- The Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Title 49, Parts 191 and 192. See www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr.
- National Fire Protection Association’s Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code [NFPA 58]. See www.nfpa.org.

For more guidance in recognizing jurisdictional systems and the responsibilities required of companies that install and service them, visit propanesafety.com and download "Propane Jurisdictional Systems: A Guide to Understanding Basic Fundamentals and Requirements."

## Container Location and Installation

Once the proper size of the ASME storage tank has been determined, careful attention must be given to the most convenient yet safe place for its location on the customer's property.

The container should be placed in a location that pleases the customer but does not conflict with state and local regulations or NFPA 58, Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases. Refer to this standard and consult with your propane professional to determine the appropriate placement of propane containers.

In general, storage tanks should be placed in an accessible location for filling. Aboveground tanks should be supported by a concrete pad or concrete blocks of appropriate size and reinforcement. For underground propane tanks, properly determining the depth and size of the burial location is critical for placement of the tank. To avoid damage, underground propane tanks should be installed in a location where the delivery truck will not need to drive over septic tanks or other underground amenities. All propane storage tanks should be located away from vehicular traffic.

For ASME containers, the distance from any building openings, external sources of ignition, and intakes to direct-vented gas appliances or mechanical ventilation systems are a critical consideration. See Figures 1 and 2 on pages 12 and 13 , respectively.

Refer to NFPA 58 for the minimum distances that these containers must be placed from a building or other objects.


[^1]Figure 1. Aboveground ASME Containers. Reproduced with permission from NFPA 58-2014, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, copyright © 2013, National Fire Protection Association. This reprinted material is not the complete and official position of the NFPA on the referenced subject, which is represented only by the standard in its entirety.

## Container Location [Continued]



Figure 2. Underground ASME Containers. Reproduced with permission from NFPA 58-2014, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, copyright © 2013, National Fire Protection Association. This reprinted material is not the complete and official position of the NFPA on the referenced subject, which is represented only by the standard in its entirety.

For SI units, $1 \mathrm{ft}=0.3048 \mathrm{~m}$. mechanical ventilation air intakes.

Figure 3. Cylinders. Reproduced with permission from NFPA 58-2014, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, copyright © 2013, National Fire Protection Association. This reprinted material is not the complete and official position of the NFPA on the referenced subject, which is represented only by the standard in its entirety.
Table 6. Pippe Sizing Between Second-Stage Regulato and Appiliance
MAXIMUM UNDILUTED PROPANE CAPACITIES BASED ON AN INLET PRESSURE OF 11 INCHES W.C. AND A PRESSURE DROP OF 0.5 INCH W.C. [BASED ON A 1.52 SPECIFIC GRAVITY GAS]

| Nominal Pipe Size, Schedule 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Piping Length, Feet | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 2 \mathrm{in} . \\ & {[0.622]} \end{aligned}$ | $3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$. <br> [0.824] | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{in} . \\ {[1.049]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1-1 / 4 \mathrm{in} . \\ {[1.38]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1-1 / 2 \mathrm{in} . \\ {[1.61]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{in} . \\ {[2.067]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3 \mathrm{in} . \\ {[3.068]} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3-1 / 2 \mathrm{in} . \\ & {[3.548]} \end{aligned}$ | 4 in. $[4.026]$ |
| 10 | 291 | 608 | 1,146 | 2,353 | 3,525 | 6,789 | 19,130 | 28,008 | 39,018 |
| 20 | 200 | 418 | 788 | 1,617 | 2,423 | 4,666 | 13,148 | 19,250 | 26,817 |
| 30 | 161 | 336 | 632 | 1,299 | 1,946 | 3,747 | 10,558 | 15,458 | 21,535 |
| 40 | 137 | 287 | 541 | 1,111 | 1,665 | 3,207 | 9,036 | 13,230 | 18,431 |
| 50 | 122 | 255 | 480 | 985 | 1,476 | 2,842 | 8,009 | 11,726 | 16,335 |
| 60 | 110 | 231 | 435 | 892 | 1,337 | 2,575 | 7,256 | 10,625 | 14,801 |
| 80 | 94 | 198 | 372 | 764 | 1,144 | 2,204 | 6,211 | 9,093 | 12,668 |
| 100 | 84 | 175 | 330 | 677 | 1,014 | 1,954 | 5,504 | 8,059 | 11,227 |
| 125 | 74 | 155 | 292 | 600 | 899 | 1,731 | 4,878 | 7,143 | 9,950 |
| 150 | 67 | 141 | 265 | 544 | 815 | 1,569 | 4,420 | 6,472 | 9,016 |
| 200 | 58 | 120 | 227 | 465 | 697 | 1,343 | 3,783 | 5,539 | 7,716 |
| 250 | 51 | 107 | 201 | 412 | 618 | 1,190 | 3,353 | 4,909 | 6,839 |
| 300 | 46 | 97 | 182 | 374 | 560 | 1,078 | 3,038 | 4,448 | 6,196 |
| 350 | 43 | 89 | 167 | 344 | 515 | 992 | 2,795 | 4,092 | 5,701 |
| 400 | 40 | 83 | 156 | 320 | 479 | 923 | 2,600 | 3,807 | 5,303 |

Note: Capacities are in 1,000 Btu/Hour.
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| Table 7. Maximum Capacity of CSST ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EHD ${ }^{2}$ FLOW DESIGNATION | IN THOUSANDS OF BTU/HOUR OF UNDILUTED PROPANE AT A PRESSURE OF 11 INCHES W.C. AND A PRESSURE DROP OF 0.5 INCH W.C. [BASED ON A 1.52 SPECIFIC GRAVITY GAS] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Tubing Length, Feet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 | 10 | 15 | $२ 0$ | 25 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 300 |
| 13 | 72 | 50 | 39 | 34 | 30 | 28 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| 15 | 99 | 69 | 55 | 49 | 42 | 39 | 33 | 30 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 22 | २० | 15 | 14 | 12 | 11 |
| 18 | 181 | 129 | 104 | 91 | 82 | 74 | 64 | 58 | 53 | 49 | 45 | 44 | 41 | 31 | 28 | 25 | २3 |
| 19 | 211 | 150 | 121 | 106 | 94 | 87 | 74 | 66 | 60 | 57 | 52 | 50 | 47 | 36 | 33 | 30 | 26 |
| 23 | 355 | 254 | 208 | 183 | 164 | 151 | 131 | 118 | 107 | 99 | 94 | 90 | 85 | 66 | 60 | 53 | 50 |
| 25 | 426 | 303 | 248 | 216 | 192 | 177 | 153 | 137 | 126 | 117 | 109 | 102 | 98 | 75 | 69 | 61 | 57 |
| 30 | 744 | 521 | Ч22 | 365 | 325 | 297 | 256 | 227 | 207 | 191 | 178 | 169 | 159 | 123 | 112 | 99 | 90 |
| 31 | 863 | 605 | 490 | 425 | 379 | 344 | 297 | 265 | 241 | 222 | 208 | 197 | 186 | 143 | 129 | 117 | 107 |

${ }^{1}$ Table includes losses for four $90^{\circ}$ bends and two end fittings. Tubing runs with larger numbers of bend and/or fittings shall be increased by an equivalent
length of tubing to the following equation: $L=1.3 n$ where $L$ is the additional length (feet) of tubing and $n$ is the number of additional fittings and/or bends.
${ }^{2} \mathrm{EHD}$ (Equivalent Hydraulic Diameter) is a measure of the relative hydraulic efficiency between different tubing sizes. The greater the value of EHD, the greater
the gas capacity of the tubing.
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## Gas Piping Inlet Positioning

Just like tanks, propane pressure regulators come with requirements regarding pipe size and installation distance. Regulators installed on the gas piping system at the side of buildings cannot be placed closer than three feet horizontally from any building opening, such as a window well, that's lower than the installed regulator. Nor can they be placed closer than five feet from any source of ignition, such as an AC compressor or the intake to a direct-vent appliance. Additional regulations, as well as regulator manufacturer's instructions, may apply. Check with a propane professional first to ensure you comply with interior gas piping inlet positioning requirements.

Figure 4.
Interior Gas Piping Inlet Positioning Guidelines


## Gas Piping Hangers, Supports, and Anchors

These guidelines cover the placement of gas piping hangers, supports, and anchors, and have been adapted with permission from NFPA 54-2012, the National Fuel Gas Code. NFPA 54, local codes and standards, and manufacturer recommendations should be observed at all times.

Piping shall be supported with metal pipe hooks, metal pipe straps, metal bands, metal brackets, metal hangers, or building structural components, suitable for the size of the piping, of adequate strength and quality, and located at intervals so as to prevent or damp out excessive vibration. Piping shall be anchored to prevent undue strains on connected appliances and equipment and shall not be supported by other piping. Pipe hangers and supports shall conform to the requirements of ANSI/MSS SP-58, Pipe Hangers and Supports - Materials, Design and Manufacture.

Spacings of supports in gas piping installations shall not be greater than shown in Table 8.

| Table 8. Support of Piping |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Steel Pipe, <br> Nominal Size of <br> Pipe [Inches] | Spacing of <br> Supports [Feet] | Nominal Size of <br> Tubing Smooth <br> Wall [Inches 0.D.] | Spacing of <br> Supports [Feet] |
| $1 / 2$ | 6 | $1 / 2$ | 4 |
| $3 / 4$ or 1 | 8 | $5 / 8$ or 3/4 | 6 |
| $1-1 / 4$ or larger <br> [horizontal] | 10 | $7 / 8$ or 1 <br> [horizontal] | 8 |
| $1-1 / 4$ or larger <br> [vertical] | Every floor level | 1 or larger <br> [vertical] | Every floor level |

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Spacing of supports of CSST shall be in accordance with the CSST manufacturer's instructions.

Supports, hangers, and anchors shall be installed so as not to interfere with the free expansion and contraction of the piping between anchors. All parts of the supporting system shall be designed and installed so they are not disengaged by movement of the supported piping.

## The Propane-Ready Home

A home can be made propane-ready with simple steps like installing gas piping [CSST or alternative] to future use points, installing a manifold with available ports, and roughing in for future applications, such as by using a generator-ready electric panel. These steps add value to the home and pave the way for more propane applications. The house cutaway below shows use points for propane to consider both inside and outside the home.


Figure 5. The Propane-Ready Home
A. Clothes drying
B. Cooking
C. Space heating
D. Water heating
E. Backup power
F. Outdoor kitchen and amenities
G. Future flexibility
H. Fireplace

1. Pool heating
J. Snowmelt

## Propane Generator Installation



Figure 6. Propane Generator Installation Diagram

| Table 9. Propane Generator Fuel Consumption ${ }^{1,2,3}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Generator <br> kW Rating | Fuel Consumption <br> at 100\% Btu/Hour | Fuel Consumption <br> at $50 \%$ Btu/Hour |
| 8 | 129,000 | 79,000 |
| 11 | 175,000 | 107,000 |
| 13 | 268,000 | 149,000 |
| 14 | 279,000 | 168,000 |
| 15 | 260,000 | 166,000 |
| 17 | 325,000 | 181,000 |
| 20 | 350,000 | 189,000 |
| 22 | 313,000 | 188,000 |
| 25 | 430,000 | 298,000 |
| 27 | 356,000 | 195,000 |
| 30 | 493,000 | 320,000 |
| 36 | 500,000 | 280,000 |
| 45 | 725,000 | 378,000 |
| 48 | 755,000 | 393,000 |
| 60 | 818,000 | 458,000 |
| 70 | $1,028,000$ | 503,000 |
| 80 | $1,163,000$ | 603,000 |
| 100 | $1,268,000$ | 718,000 |
| 130 | $1,798,000$ | 933,000 |
| 150 | $2,075,000$ | $1,078,000$ |

1. Propane generators are available up to 400 kW and some models can be tied together for increased capacity. Refer to manufacturer specifications for guidance on larger generator sizes.
2. Generator manufacturers and models may have varying Btu requirements. Check manufacturer specifications for guidance.
3. Generator Btu load may require separate second-stage propane regulation. The propane system installer will make that determination based on total Btu load of the project.

Diagram and chart based on information provided courtesy of Generac.

## Conversion Factors

## Multiply <br> LENGTH AND AREA

By

| Millimeters | 0.0394 | Inches |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Meters | 3.2808 | Feet |
| Sq. centimeters | 0.1550 | Sq. inches |
| Sq. meters | 10.764 | Sq. feet |

## VOLUME AND MASS

| Cubic meters | 35.315 | Cubic feet |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Liters | 0.0353 | Cubic feet |
| Gallons | 0.1337 | Cubic feet |
| Cubic cm. | 0.061 | Cubic inches |
| Liters | 2.114 | Pints [U.S.] |
| Liters | 0.2642 | Gallons [U.S.] |
| Kilograms | 2.2046 | Pounds |
| Tonnes | 1.1024 | Tons [U.S.] |

## PRESSURE AND FLOW RATE

| Millibars | 0.4018 | Inches w.c. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Ounces/sq. in. | 1.733 | Inches w.c. |
| Inches w.c. | 0.0361 | Pounds/sq. in. |
| Bars | 14.50 | Pounds/sq. in. |
| Kilopascals | 0.1450 | Pounds/sq. in. |
| Kilograms/sq. cm. | 14.222 | Pounds/sq. in. |
| Pounds/sq. in. | 0.068 | Atmospheres |
| Liters/hr. | 0.0353 | Cubic feet/hr. |
| Cubic meters/hr. | 4.403 | Gallons/min. |

## MISCELLANEOUS

| Kilojoules | 0.9478 | Btu |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Calories, kg | 3.968 | Btu |
| Watts | 3.414 | $\mathrm{Btu} / \mathrm{hr}$ |
| Btu | 0.00001 | Therms |
| Megajoules | 0.00948 | Therms |

## Conversion Factors [Continued]

## Multiply

By
To Obtain
LENGTH AND AREA

| Inches | 25.4 | Millimeters |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Feet | 0.3048 | Meters |
| Sq. inches | 6.4516 | Sq. centimeters |
| Sq. feet | 0.0929 | Sq. meters |

## VOLUME AND MASS

| Cubic feet | 0.0283 | Cubic meters |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cubic feet | 28.316 | Liters |
| Cubic feet | 7.481 | Gallons |
| Cubic inches | 16.387 | Cubic cm. |
| Pints [U.S.] | 0.473 | Liters |
| Gallons [U.S.] | 3.785 | Liters |
| Pounds | 0.4535 | Kilograms |
| Tons [U.S.] | 0.9071 | Tonnes |

## PRESSURE AND FLOW RATE

| Inches w.c. | 2.488 | Millibars |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Inches w.c. | 0.577 | Ounces/sq. in. |
| Pounds/sq. in. | 27.71 | Inches w.c. |
| Pounds/sq. in. | 0.0689 | Bars |
| Pounds/sq. in. | 6.895 | Kilopascals |
| Pounds/sq. in. | 0.0703 | Kilograms/sq. cm. |
| Atmospheres | 14.696 | Pounds/sq. in. |
| Cubic feet/hr. | 28.316 | Liters/hr. |
| Gallons/min. | 0.2271 | Cubic meters/hr. |

## MISCELLANEOUS

| Btu | 1.055 | Kilojoules |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Btu | 0.252 | Calories, kg |
| Btu/hr | 0.293 | Watts |
| Therms | 100,000 | Btu |
| Therms | 105.5 | Megajoules |

## Temperature Conversion

Table 10. Temperature Conversion

| ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -40 | -40 | 30 | -1.1 | 90 | 32.2 |
| -30 | -34.4 | 32 | 0 | 100 | 37.8 |
| -20 | -28.9 | 40 | 4.4 | 110 | 43.3 |
| -10 | -23.3 | 50 | 10.0 | 120 | 48.9 |
| 0 | -17.8 | 60 | 15.6 | 130 | 54.4 |
| 10 | -12.2 | 70 | 21.1 | 140 | 60.0 |
| 20 | -6.7 | 80 | 26.7 | 150 | 65.6 |




[^0]:    *Tank frosting acts as an insulator, reducing the vaporization rate.

[^1]:    gas appliances, or intake to a mechanical ventilation system.

