



Disclaimer

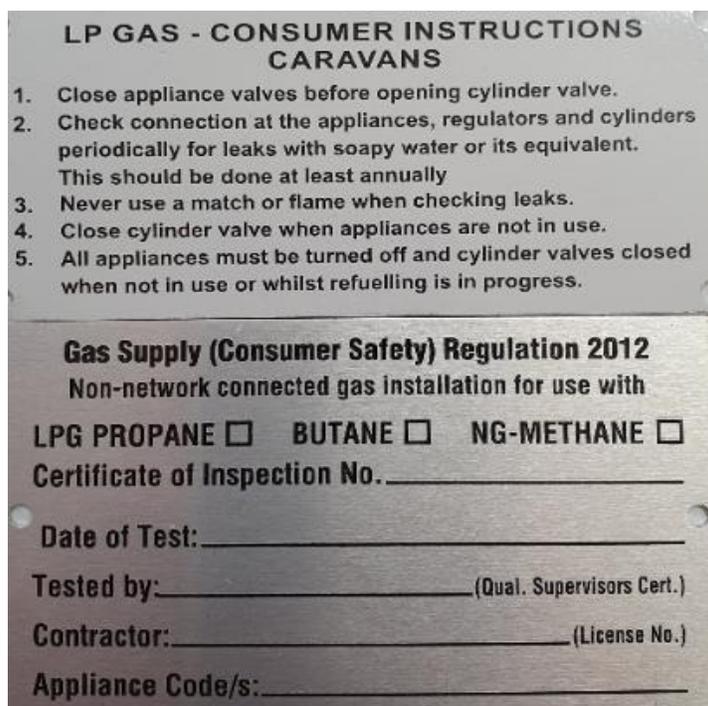
While the material contained in this Safety Guide has been formulated with all due care, Caravan Plumbing Repairs recognise that it serves as a guide only and does not warrant or represent that the material holds any liabilities.

At Caravan Plumbing Repairs we believe it is our responsibility to provide you with the information you need to have the confidence and peace of mind to travel our great nation. The purpose of this booklet is to give you some simple steps to ensure your caravan, motor home or camper trailers gas system is operating correctly and safely.

Gas systems should comply with the requirements of the nationally recognised Australian standard AS/NZS5601.2 Gas installations, Part 2 LP Gas systems in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes (AS/NZS5601.2).

Compliance

Firstly, your recreational vehicle should be compliant. This can be identified by a gas compliance plate usually located next to the gas bottles or with the vehicle identification plate. Please be aware that compliance plates (as shown below) may differ per state, however the requirements are the same across Australia.



Compliance Plate

The compliance plate will have an inspection number allocated to your vehicle, it will also give information as to when and who carried out the inspection and testing including the appliance codes. Each Appliance code is numbered, for example, if your caravan has a gas cook top, fridge and a BBQ the numbers 1,2,5 would be labeled on the compliance plate. If you find that you have more appliances than numbered, you will need to seek advice from a licensed gas plumber or gas fitter.

Code	Type of Appliance
0	Stationary engine power or air conditioner
1	Cook top or wok cooker
2	Refrigeration or Absorption chiller
3	Instantaneous water, pool or spa heater
4	Tank hot water heater
5	Top plate, grill or BBQ
6	Oven for baking, curing or drying
7	Decorative flare or gas lights
8	Room heater or space heater
9	Other appliances

Gas Bottles

Before setting off on your journey you should always check that your gas bottles are secure. If the bottles are located externally the bottle should sit inside a fixed bracket with a clamp. This is to ensure that the bottles are safe, secure and do not move around. If the bottles are located internally in a bottle cabinet as shown below, you may find that the bottle is secured down with a strap. Please note that cabinet should never be accessible from within the caravan and should have a vent at the base of the cabinet to allow potential leaking gas to escape. The vent should never be obstructed or covered with an object.



Gas bottles are also issued with an expiry date and require testing every 10 to 15 years depending on size. Always inspect your bottle for visible signs of damage or corrosion that could be hazardous to yourself or others.

Hoses and Regulator

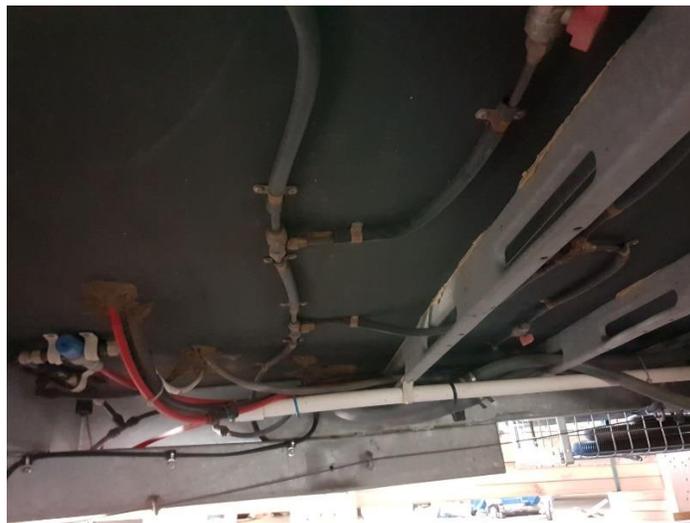
The first key component of your gas system is the hoses and regulator, this will allow you to connect the gas bottle to your gas system. A gas hose is the link between the bottle and the regulator, hoses should be visually inspected for any signs of deterioration or damage and it is recommended to replace gas hoses every 5 years unless specified by the manufacture.

The regulator controls the gas pressure from the bottle to the appliances. Gas pressure inside the bottle can be up to 800kpa while the gas system will only require 2.75kpa to operate. The regulator will be mounted next to or in between the bottles. The regulator should not be altered or modified in any way.



Gas Piping System

The second component is the gas piping system. This will carry the gas to the appliances throughout the caravan. The pipework is usually run along the chassis of the caravan and can be wrapped in a rubber lagging to protect the pipework when the caravan is in transit. The gas pipework will have multiple connections or joiners depending on how many appliances you have. All junctions need to be outside the caravan, if you find that a junction has been installed inside a cupboard within the caravan you will need to seek professional help. The connections are the weakest point of any caravan gas system as the vibrations from transit can have an effect on the seal. This is important to note when carrying out a safety check.



Isolation Valves

Each appliance on your caravan must have its own isolation valve. The valve must be in an accessible location and should allow you to isolate individual appliances from the gas system. You should familiarize yourself with the locations of the valves and ensure the valve turns and operates smoothly. The valves can be located inside the caravan generally under or next to the appliance inside a cupboard. Alternatively, the valves may be mounted under the caravan along the chassis.



Appliances

The final stage of any gas system are the appliances. Appliances will have a single gas connection rising from the floor to the appliance. To find these connections you may need to look inside a cupboard or from the outside of the caravan opening a service.



Important

It is important to note that gas appliances must be certified by testing organisations such as The Australian Gas Association or other appropriate testing organisations. Your appliance should have a sticker to advise you that your appliance has been tested and approved.



Safety Leak Check

Now that you understand the elements of your gas system its time to make sure its safe. If you have visually inspected all aspects of the system and found no visible damage a soapy water test can be carried out. This test is a simply quick and easy procedure that is recommended to be

carried out annually in a well-ventilated area away from any naked flames or source of ignition. Please note if you have been through rough terrain, this would warrant another check. For peace of mind you can always have a licensed gas professional carry out a gas leak check for you.

What you need:

- Spray bottle
- Dishwashing liquid or hand soap
- Water

What to do:

Fill up the spray bottle halfway with water and add approximately 50ml of dishwashing liquid or hand soap. Give the bottle a shake to ensure the bottle is full of bubbles, if you do not think the water is soapy enough simply add more.



Starting from the connection to the gas bottle begin spraying all the fittings with the liquid working your way back towards the regulator.

If the gas system has no leaks the bubbles will sit on the gas fittings and slowly begin to break down and drip off.



If, however you find a leak the gas will begin to create bubbles that will double and triple quite quickly. The bubbles will increase in size as they fill with gas before bursting. You may also find that you can smell the gas in the effected area.



This procedure can be carried out on all connections found in the gas system. After you start with the gas bottle continue onto the gas hoses, then the regulator and slowly continue along the gas

system under your caravan following the gas pipe. Pay special attention to the junctions under the caravan for signs of leaks. Continue into the cupboard and access panels of the outside of the caravan ensuring you are satisfied with each fitting and connection.

If you find any leaks on a gas appliance you can turn the gas appliance off at the isolation valve and the gas bottles. Seek immediate help from a professional to ensure that repairs are carried out and the gas system is tested.

For further information on how to conduct a caravan gas safety check feel free to contact the team:-

Phone: 0422 517 402

Website: www.caravanplumbingrepairs.com.au .