



## HOW LP GAS WORKS

Here are some quick, but crucial, facts about your RV propane regulator.

### 1. To regulate the propane pressure, your RV has a two-stage propane regulator.

This is a component that fits between the tank to the rest of the system, and it takes the fuel coming out of the tank at a high pressure (or PSI) and brings it down to a manageable flow. The first stage lowers the pressure to around 10 psi from its much higher number, sometimes 250 psi or more. Then, the second stage takes it down to around 11 inches water column, which is the right flow for your RV's appliances.

### 2. The RV propane pressure regulator is considered by many to be the heart of your RV's propane system.

It has an important job, and you can't fuel your appliances if it's not working, no matter how much propane is in your tank. It's fairly easy to install, and the inlet and outlet are different sizes, so you won't ever mix them up. Therefore, as long as you're comfortable doing your own RV repairs, it's not a bad idea to have a spare RV propane regulator (add our link here to purchase). If your two-stage regulator starts to break down, having that extra one can mean the difference between a comfortable camp out and a really chilly night!

### 3. Each stage on a two-stage propane regulator for RV has a vent.

The vent on the first stage is quite tiny, often just a small hole. The second stage vent is bigger and more obvious. It's essential to keep these vents clean, or the regulator won't work properly. To help dirt and debris from getting caught in them, the stage two vent must be pointed down. If possible, the stage one vent should point down, too.

### 4. You've got to keep your RV's two-stage propane regulator covered.

There are plastic covers made specifically for this purpose, and if you bought your RV new, it should already have one. However, if you have an older model RV without a cover, or if your cover is cracked or damaged, you'll want to get a new one as soon as you can.

### 5. Your RV propane regulator should last a while, but it won't last forever.

It's a good idea to replace them every ten years. Even if you're not experiencing any trouble with your RV's propane system, the inside parts wear down and wear out after a while. It's wise to replace an old regulator before something inevitably goes wrong.

### 6. When you fill your RV propane tank (or tanks), turn off the tank service valve.

Once the tank is full, don't forget to turn it back on (or have your service technician turn it back on). If you go to fire up your gas appliances after filling your tank and nothing seems to be working, check the valve — it's probably in the off position.

### 7. Some RVs have two propane tanks instead of one.

**RVs with this type of setup will often have an RV automatic Propane (LPG) changeover regulator.**

To use it properly, make sure both propane tanks are turned on. When the pressure in the service tank drops to less than 5 psi, the regulator will automatically switch to the reserve tank to supply the gas flow with no interruption. You know this occurred because the visual indicator will now be RED. When you see the indicator turned red you close the valve on the service tank, manually move the selection device to point towards the reserve tank and the indicator will turn green. This tank has now become the service tank and you can safely remove the empty tank, ensuring the valve has been closed. Make sure you fill your empty tank before your spare runs out! Once filled, re-installed, reconnected to the regulator and checked for leaks, open the service valve. This now makes the replaced tank the reserve tank and placing the system back into full operation.

### 8. Propane has a very distinct odor, and if you smell that odor, something is wrong.

It could be a problem with your RV propane regulator, or it could be an issue with some other part of your propane system, but whatever it is, you'll want to find out quickly.

**a. Immediately put out all smoking materials, pilot lights, and other open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or a fire.**

**b. Get everybody out of the RV immediately.**

**c. If you are able to, safely turn off the gas supply valve on your cylinder or container.**

**d. Immediately leave the area and call 911 or the local fire department.**

**e. Before you re-enter the RV, or restart or use any of your propane appliances, have a trained service technician inspect your entire system.**

### 9. Remember: when it comes to propane, better safe than sorry!

The RV propane regulator isn't a complicated component, and if you're comfortable making repairs, you should be able to resolve any issue that comes up with yours. However, it's also important to remember that propane is extremely flammable, and you don't want to take chances. If you're not sure how to fix your RV propane regulator or any other part of your RV's propane system, enlist the help of a trusted and experienced RV repair person.

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## CARBON MONOXIDE & YOUR SAFETY



1. You can't taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it is a dangerous gas. High levels of carbon monoxide can cause sickness or, in extreme cases, death. High levels can come from appliances that are not operating correctly or properly vented.



2. To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, have a trained service technician check your propane system annually. Also, frequently check exterior appliance vents and clear any debris, insect nests, or other items that may restrict venting.



3. Never use portable heaters or other appliances in your RV unless they are approved for indoor use and specifically for use in RVs. Follow manufacturer instructions regarding operation and ventilation requirements.



4. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, and shortness of breath. If you suspect carbon monoxide is present, get everyone out of the RV and call 911 or the local fire department.

## HOW AN RV PROPANE REGULATOR WORKS

Propane regulators fueling appliances like what you have in your RV require two-stage regulators. To understand how an RV propane regulator works, you first need to understand what happens in each stage.

### STAGE 1

The first stage regulates the pressure directly from the propane tank. It takes the pressure from the propane tanks down to a manageable level for the second stage of the regulator to do its job. It lowers the pressure from as high as 250 psi to approximately 10 psi.

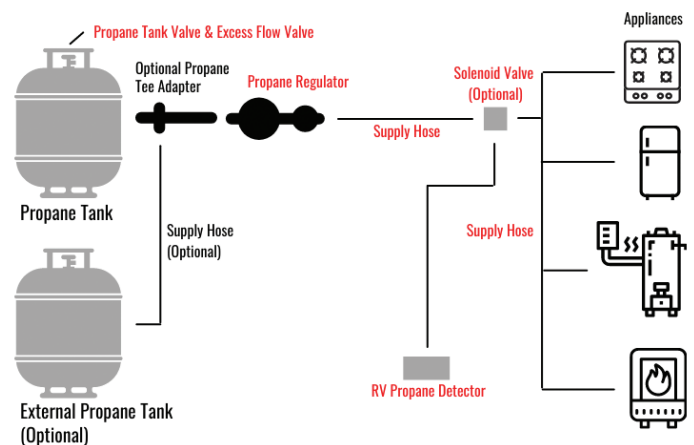
### STAGE 2

The second stage of the RV propane regulator takes the "brought down" pressure from the first stage and turns it into the standard propane pressure for appliances. It lowers the pressure to around 11 inches water column.

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GAS REGULATOR FAILS?

Gas regulators, when not performing optimally or fail, can lead to many hazardous situations such as the leakage of toxic gases into the atmosphere, or even the risk of explosions or fire.

### Single Tank Propane System with Optional External Tank



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