

Safely converting Natural Gas installations and appliances to LPG

Read this information before converting gas installations and appliances to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) because of flood impacts on natural gas supplies.

Q. Can a natural gas appliance be connected directly to an LPG cylinder or supply without being converted first?

A. No: LPG is delivered at higher pressures than the normal working pressure of a natural gas appliance. Any attempt to use LPG through a unconverted natural gas appliance could result in serious injury or death.

Q. Can most natural gas appliances be converted to LPG?

A. Yes: Most natural gas appliances can be converted but this work **must be done by a licensed gasfitter**. The gasfitter is responsible for making sure the appliance is suitable, including ensuring the appliance is certified for use on LPG. Some gas appliances are not designed or certified for use on LPG and cannot be converted to LPG.

Q. Can anyone do this conversion work?

A. No: Conversion requires a professionally licensed gasfitter. The gasfitter will check the appliance to make sure that the conversion is possible.

Q. Do natural gas installations need to be converted to LPG?

A. Yes: A licensed gasfitter must check the installation to determine if your pipe work is suitable. Most natural gas piping systems can be converted to run LPG.

Q. Can I use portable barbecues and gas cylinders indoors?

A. No: Portable barbecues must only be used outdoors. It is unsafe to operate portable barbecues or any other LPG appliance designed for outdoor use inside a building or a fully enclosed area. Remember these points:

- Operate gas appliances in fresh air—it is the only safe way.
- If there is not enough air or ventilation, using the appliance can produce toxic carbon monoxide.
- Storing or using gas cylinders indoors is not safe.

Q. What should I do next?

A. Contact your gas retailer (check your gas bill for contact information) or a local gasfitter.

Q. Where can I find a gasfitter?

A. If you cannot find a licensed gasfitter to undertake gas work, contact your local gas supplier for assistance. Look for 'licensed gasfitters' in the Yellow Pages or your local newspaper classifieds adverts.

Some gasfitters are members of the Master Plumbers Association of Queensland (MPAQ). The MPAQ website (www.mpaq.com.au) has a search feature to help you find a licensed gasfitter in your area or call the association on 3273 0800.

Gas work undertaken in homes and businesses

If you own a gas system, remember that you should check that the gasfitter is a contractor who is licensed. The gasfitter is obliged to give the owner of the gas system or appliance a certificate of licensed work immediately after completing the conversion or installation work. The gasfitter must also fit a compliance plate to the installation after completing any gas work.

Keep a copy of the certificate as gas inspectors can request these certificates when they inspect gas systems to verify compliance with the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*.

Certification of gas appliances

A gasfitter can only carry out conversion work on a gas appliance that is approved as suitable. Gasfitters will check the suitability of appliances before they start work and advise the owner of what is required.

Gas appliances must be certified for use by an organisation approved by the Chief Inspector of the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate. These (Type A) appliances may include gas stoves, hot water heaters and commercial catering appliances. Any existing Type A Gas appliances that are not certified for use on LPG will need to be certified for use by the gasfitter.

The Queensland Gas Association (QGA) is approved by the Chief Inspector to certify gas appliances for use on LPG. Contact the QGA on 1300 792 239 or via the association's website (www.qga.org.au).

Type B gas appliances are all gas appliances other than domestic and commercial (Type A) appliances. Type B appliances are essentially industrial and special commercial gas devices.

These appliances also require certification by organisations that have been approved by the Chief Inspector.

Organisations approved by the Chief Inspector to approve Type B gas appliances (including modifications such as conversions):

Air and Gas Industries	3271 5899
Combustion Technique Pty Ltd	0411 328 577
Gas Advisory Services	0431 533 252
GASAP	0413 838 563
Gastrain Pty Ltd	0407 774 352
Glenergy Services	0425 716 538
Hyde Combustion Pty Ltd	3390 7979
Jolan Pty Ltd	0416 073 803
Origin Energy LPG Ltd	13 24 62
State Combustion	0403 847 670
Swisstech Pty Ltd	0417 732 414
Tamar Gas	0428 381 803
Vinke Enterprises Pty Ltd	0419 671 504

Contact the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate's regional offices:

Northern Region (Townsville)	4760 7411
Central Region (Rockhampton)	4938 4682
Southern (Woolloongabba)	3330 4240

Email: gassafe@dnrm.qld.gov.au