

Propane Living



Propane Safety and Winter Storms Steps to keep you and your family safe

Freezing rain, ice storms, sometimes snow, and high winds may all be part of winter, but being unprepared for them shouldn't be. If your home or business uses propane to generate heat or run appliances, there are a few simple steps you can take to keep your family safe and avoid potential dangers.

Make sure your heating system and appliances are running efficiently. Have a qualified service technician annually inspect and service your appliances and propane system. This will ensure that your appliances are running as efficiently as possible, conserving fuel and saving dollars.

Make sure you have an adequate propane supply. During and after a winter storm, roads may be inaccessible for delivery. It is recommended that you establish a regular delivery schedule with your propane retailer. For more on this subject, turn to page three of this newsletter.

Never use a stove for space heating and never use outdoor propane appliances indoors or in enclosed areas, particularly in the event of a power outage. Proper ventilation is necessary for their safe operation; and carbon monoxide fumes emitted can be lethal. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for indoor use. Never store, place, or use a propane cylinder indoors or in enclosed areas. For more on carbon monoxide safety, turn to page three of this newsletter.

Use extreme caution when operating portable generators. Never use a portable generator (gasoline, diesel, or propane) indoors or in enclosed areas. This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning or death.

After a winter storm passes and it is safe to do so, check the entire area for downed power lines, damaged gas lines, or damage to your propane tank. Immediately call your local utility company or propane retailer if any of these hazards exist. Do not attempt repairs yourself.

Check your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and propane tank for damage, blockage, or debris caused by snow and ice. Use a broom rather than a shovel, and clear these areas frequently. This will help reduce the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning due to blocked or damaged chimneys, flues, and vents.

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TIPS!
Federal Tax
Incentives Expire
Soon—Check Them
Out Today

Tax Incentives and Rebates

In December 2010, Congress passed legislation extending several tax credits related to residential energy efficiency. Homeowners now have an additional year to take advantage of tax credits for energy efficient propane furnaces or water heaters. The legislation also allows homebuilders to receive federal tax credits for high efficiency homes built in 2010 and 2011, by extending the corporate tax credit from 2009.

Personal Tax Credit for Homeowners: Residential Energy Efficiency Tax Credit

Eligible Property: Heating and water heating equipment serving a dwelling in the U.S. Must be the taxpayer's primary residence.

Incentive: Personal tax credit equal to the full cost of the equipment (including installation cost) subject to the following caps:

- \$150: Propane furnaces with an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) of at least 95 percent.
- \$300: Propane water heaters with an Energy Factor (EF) of at least 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent.

Limit: The maximum credit that can be earned is \$500. Past credits earned by a taxpayer from 2006–2010 under this credit are applied toward this limit.

Expiration: December 31, 2011
To find more information on the federal tax incentives, please visit <http://www.energystar.gov>.

Please note, not all ENERGY STAR qualified products qualify for a tax credit. ENERGY STAR distinguishes energy efficient products which, although they may cost more to purchase than standard models, will pay you back in lower energy bills within a reasonable amount of time, without a tax credit.

NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® Chocolate Chip Pie



Prep: 15 mins
Cooking: 55 mins
Level: Easy
Cooling: 15 mins
Yields: 8

The sweet, creamy richness of a brown sugar base makes this chocolate chip pie a perfect foil for chopped nuts and whipped or ice cream. Serve with strong coffee or tea.

Ingredients

- 1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) deep-dish pie shell
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 cup (6 oz.) NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- Sweetened whipped cream or ice cream (optional)

Directions

PREHEAT oven to 325° F.

BEAT eggs in large mixer bowl on high speed until foamy. Beat in flour, granulated sugar and brown sugar. Beat in butter. Stir in morsels and nuts. Spoon into pie shell.

BAKE for 55 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between edge and center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Serve warm with whipped cream, if desired.

This recipe and/or photo is made available as a courtesy by Nestlé USA and www.VeryBestBaking.com.

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Carbon Monoxide Safety Information

Every year, hundreds of Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning and thousands seek medical attention. Some of these fatalities are caused by improper operation of appliances.

CARBON MONOXIDE CAN BE DEADLY!

High levels of carbon monoxide can make you dizzy, give you headaches, or cause flu-like symptoms. In extreme cases, high levels of or extended exposure to carbon monoxide can result in brain damage or death. Young children; the elderly; people with heart disease; and those under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication are particularly susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The best way to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is to have a qualified service technician check your appliances and venting systems annually, preferably before the heating season begins. Other important measures include:

- Keep chimneys, flues, and vents free of debris such as leaves and animal nests.
- Keep chimneys, flues, and vents free of snow and ice.
- Consider installing a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home.
- Never use a gas oven or range-top burners to provide space heating.
- Never use portable heaters indoors, unless they are designed and approved for indoor use.
- Never use a barbecue grill (propane or charcoal) indoors for cooking or heating.
- Regularly check your appliance exhaust vents for blockage.
- Always open the chimney flue damper when you use your fireplace.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and use of vent-free appliances, including fireplaces and logs.
- Never run an internal combustion engine such as your car, lawn mower, generator, or snow blower in enclosed areas such as your garage.

Carbon monoxide detectors are designed to sound an alarm when they sense excessive levels of carbon monoxide in the air. For an extra measure of safety, we recommend that you consider installing a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation, location, and maintenance.

Some signs that may lead to carbon monoxide:

- Sooting, especially on appliances, vents, and warm air registers
- Unfamiliar or burning odor
- Increased moisture inside of windows

If you or a family member shows physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, get everyone out of the building and CALL 911 OR YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT.

If it is safe to do so, open windows to allow entry of fresh air, and turn off any appliances you suspect may be releasing the carbon monoxide. If no one has physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, but you suspect that carbon monoxide is present, call your propane retailer or a qualified service technician to check carbon monoxide levels and your propane equipment.



What Happens if I Run Out of Gas?

DON'T RUN OUT OF GAS.

Serious safety hazards, including fire or explosion, can result.

If an appliance valve or a gas line is left open when the propane supply runs out, a leak could occur when the system is recharged with propane.

Air and moisture could get into an empty or depleted storage tank, which can cause rust build-up inside the tank. Rust can decrease the concentration of the odor of propane, making it harder to smell.

If your propane tank runs out of gas, any pilot lights on your appliances will go out. This can be extremely dangerous if not handled properly.

A LEAK CHECK IS REQUIRED.

In Texas (and most states), a propane retailer or a qualified service technician must perform a leak check of your propane system before turning on the gas.

SET UP REGULAR DELIVERY.

Establish a regular delivery schedule with your propane retailer. Also, periodically check the fuel gauge on your propane tank. If the fuel level drops below 20%, call your propane retailer.

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Exercise sound judgment. Stay calm; use radios, television, and telephones to stay informed and connected. Remember, winter storms can last several days and roads may be inaccessible for fuel delivery.

Take immediate action if you smell gas inside or outside of your home or business. Follow these simple instructions:

- *No flames or sparks!* Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate or turn on or off lights, appliances, telephones or cell phones.
- *Leave the area immediately!* Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.
- *Shut off the gas.* Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank, if it is safe to do so. To close the valve, turn it to the right (clockwise).
- *Report the leak.* From a neighbor's home or other building away from the gas leak, call your propane retailer right away. If you can't reach your propane retailer, call 911 or your local fire department.
- *Do not return to the building or area* until your propane retailer, emergency responder, or qualified service technician determines that it is safe to do so.
- *After a gas leak, get your system checked.* Before you attempt to use any of your propane appliances, your propane retailer or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure that it is leak-free.

For additional information on preparing for winter storms and other severe weather conditions and natural disasters, visit usepropane.com or contact your propane retailer.