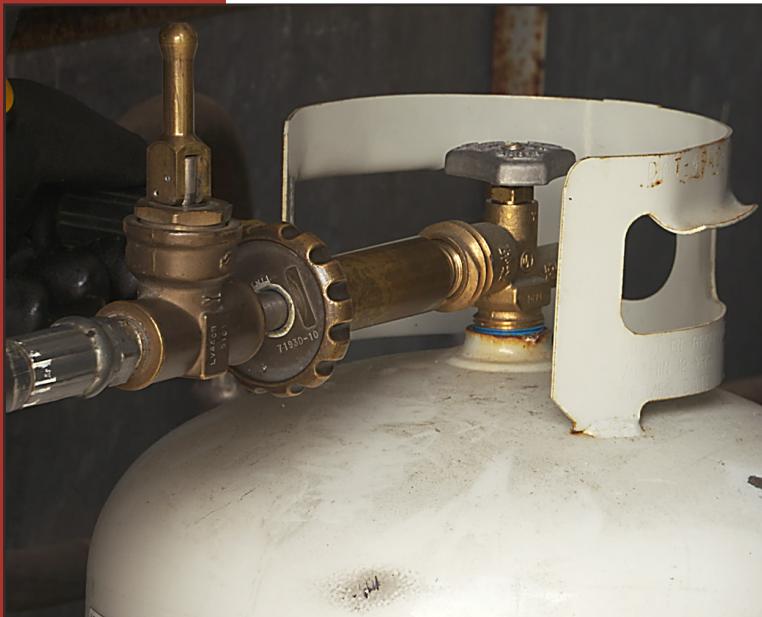




CLASS RESOURCE

LP SYSTEM KNOW-HOW

Proper Filling Procedure for DOT Cylinders



DOT cylinders are portable propane containers used in trailers and some smaller motorhomes that are designed to be removed and taken to the propane distributor for filling. Typically, they are available in 20 lb. to 40 lb. sizes but can get as large as 80 lbs. for RVers that are permanently parked for the season.

Whether it's a small 20 lb. residential style cylinder used for grills or smaller trailers, or larger 40 lb. models used for 5th wheel trailers, DOT cylinders must be refilled by a certified propane technician.

When transporting a DOT cylinder always shut off the supply valve and apply the protective cover. Most propane dealers will not fill a cylinder without a cover.

Keep cylinders upright, stabilized, and well ventilated when transporting to a propane distributor. Smaller tanks can be placed in a box or milk crate to keep them from tipping or rolling around.

The propane distributor must inspect the cylinder for damage, deterioration, certification, and OPD compliance. A visual inspection for rust and damage is first, compliance with the Overfill Prevention Device (OP), and the age will tell if the cylinder can be filled legally.

DOT cylinders must be recertified after 10 years. Dates should be stamped on the handle.

OPD valves were required after April 1, 2002 on all DOT cylinders and are designed to restrict the fill of the cylinder to 80%, allowing for expansion during temperature changes. An OPD valve is detected by the triangle handle on the top of the valve.

The propane dealer will verify the Tare Weight (TW) stamped on the handle which will indicate the weight of the tank. They will calculate the appropriate 80% fill weight and put the cylinder on a scale to determine how much propane is currently in the cylinder, adjusting the weight accordingly.

The bleeder or "spit valve" is opened on the cylinder to purge the air and the tank is filled until a white mist or vapor comes out of the spit valve or the OPD valve shuts it off.