FILLING OF USER OWNED, PORTABLE REFILLABLE LPG CYLINDERS AT AUTOGAS REFUELLING SITES

It is our advice that user owned, portable LPG cylinders should not be refilled at autogas refuelling sites.

- Vessels which are attached to a vehicle for heating or cooking (on camper vans or similar) present similar risks on filling to those for propulsion purposes and may be permitted to be re-filled at autogas refuelling sites provided they:
  - remain in-situ for refilling; and
  - are fitted with a device to physically prevent filling beyond 80%; and
  - are connected to a fixed filling connector which is not part of the vessel.

UK Health and Safety law, particularly the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations and the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations, impose significant duties on the site operator to ensure safety. Autogas refuelling sites are places of work and their personnel have responsibility for safety to everyone on the site, including the general public. They authorise the flow of gas from the dispenser and they may be considered, in law, the filler.

Safe filling of LPG cylinders requires appropriate expertise and/or equipment. Staff at autogas refuelling sites cannot fulfil statutory obligations as they have neither.

Were there to be any accident the site operator could be liable to prosecution.

This view has been confirmed in the Minutes of the HSE Petroleum Enforcement Liaison Group meeting of 7th July 2005 which states “PLAs should consider issuing a prohibition notice if their inspectors discover a site which allows members of the public to refill gas cylinders”.

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Where to fit the Filler
When deciding where to fit the filling point, it is important to take into consideration:
1.... that a relatively heavy gas gun has to be connected and disconnected for filling.
2.... what would happen if the hose connection onto the back of the filler should leak. Under no circumstances should gas be able to penetrate the living area but should vent to the outside.

Fit the Filler in the skirt of the vehicle, below the floor level as any escaping gas can then vent freely to the atmosphere.

Use the Filling Point Mounting Bracket in the cylinder compartment - either between the cylinders or top mounted.

Fitting the Filler Point in the door
It is absolutely critical that the hose is free from stress. The door should be able to close naturally at all times. To avoid stress and strain on the hose, we recommend using the 01-4210 (90 degree fill adapter) which will allow the hose to fold back naturally with the fold of the door (see below left).
NB. By aiming the adapter at an inclined angle above the horizontal, the hose can clear the top of the cylinders.

Do NOT!....

Installation in a Caravan
Decide which side you would like the filling point. We would suggest either above or below the barbecue point (if fitted) or the same side as the petrol filler on your car.

Mark out and cut a 70mm hole for the filler point

Using a file, create 2 small cutouts top and bottom for the lugs on the filler bracket.

These prevent the filler from rotating when fitted

Install the Brass Filler head into the bracket using the 4 screws and bracket provided

NOTE: Before fixing the housing to your Caravan/Motorhome, it is better to fit the connection hose onto the outlet of the brass filler using a spanner and a set of grips which avoids putting too much rotational pressure onto the housing when tightening up the connection.

Using a small amount of silicon sealant around the front flange of the housing, push into the hole and secure using the rear-mounting bracket with 6 self-tapping screws. VERY IMPORTANT: Select the optimum screw length from one of the three sets supplied, making sure the screw ends do not protrude into the filling box as this can prevent the filling gun connecting properly - if necessary, cut off any excess.

Connect the filler hose to the cylinder filler valve and securely fasten. To turn your system into a twin cylinder system you require a Cylinder-2 and Stainless Steel Connection Hose.
Installation in a Motorhome

The Installation principles used in a caravan should be followed when fitting to a motorhome.

Installation in the skirt below the floor level of a motorhome will require the use of a 1.5 metre hose.

Installation using a bracket in the cylinder compartment should use a 0.6 metre hose.

Typical Motorhome Installations

Installation using Mounting Bracket but with a 1.5 metre hose and no right angle adaptor.

Installation using Mounting Bracket with a 0.6 metre hose and right angle adaptor (01-4210).

Installation using Mounting Bracket with a 0.6 metre hose and right angle adaptor (01-6010SS).

Installation using Mounting Bracket set in the top right corner of the compartment.

Installation in a Timberland.

Transferring, removing or adding a cylinder

When transferring a system to a new van, a transfer kit should be used (see cover).

Fitted non-return valves allow full or empty cylinders to be removed.

When adding a cylinder No.2, a 2nd cylinder connection hose should be used (see cover).

The Non-return filler valve allows the hose to be disconnected. It will take a while for the gas trapped in the hose to dissipate.

Operation of the Gaslow Contents Gauge

Connecting to the Refillable Gas Supply

Auto gas is Propane, however, on the continent, a small amount of Butane is added - so for pre-2004 vans using Butane, you will need to change your regulator and fit one of the following:

- Propane Manual Changeover (01-1650-refill)
- Propane Auto Changeover (01-1655-refill)

If you are already using Propane you can convert your existing regulator with a Propane Adapter and Gauge (01-4330).

If you have a Propane changeover, simply change the high pressure hoses.

For new vans fitted with a 30mbar caravan regulator and using 7Kg Butane cylinders, simply remove the clip-on adapter. If using Propane, change the high pressure hose(s) to an 01-6010SS.

STAINLESS STEEL HOSES

Your stainless steel hose is manufactured to EN 10380, has no perishable rubber in its construction and carries a 15 Year warranty.

Your cylinders are manufactured to European Standard EN 1442 and each one has its own unique certificate and identification stamped into the bottom foot shroud of the cylinder.

IMPORTANT: Please note the retest date which, on the above example is 2019.

This cylinder MUST be returned to your local dealer or contact us direct to exchange the cylinder for a new one during that year as it shows that our 15 year warranty has run out.

Each cylinder has two valves - one which allows 80% filling of the cylinder and prevents overfilling. The second valve has a 21.8 x 1/14LH outlet to DIN477 with safety relief and is for vapour draw-off. Both valves have been tested and approved to European Directive 99/94/EC.

PLEASE NOTE

The detachable contents gauge will ONLY fit the LEFT side of the valve (see cover).
Gaslow installer CMR filled my gaslow cylinder before fitting the system. It was a few weeks before I had used up some gas. I couldn’t wait to see how easy or difficult it would be to fill up again. The gaslow refillable system is a safe, simple and well thought-out product. While it may take years to recoup the installation costs through money saved on refills, the simple fact that it puts an end to lifting heavy gas cylinders makes Gaslow an absolute winner. I cannot fault it.

A quick search on the internet soon revealed the locations of LPG stations en route. For those without wireless internet, CMR can sell you a map showing locations of LPG stations across Britain. The directions on the web site were spot-on and I easily found this garage just off Junction 9 of the M5. It wasn’t as easy to find the LPG pump. Believe it or not, it was concealed within this row of pumps. The attendant assured us the signage would be improved.

This is what to look for - a smaller-than-average pump with a larger-than-average nozzle. The normal safety precautions apply: no smoking, switch off your mobile, and turn off the gas supply to the caravan. Most gas pumps carry comprehensive instructions like these, so don’t worry if you do not have this article to hand.

Once I’d found the pump, it was no more difficult to park alongside than with a regular petrol pump. Remove the filler cap from the caravan, take the nozzle from the pump and check the display resets to zero (as you would a petrol pump).

Here is a close-up of the filler attachment on the caravan. Don’t worry about the screw thread inside - it’s the two lugs you need to deal with.

FILLING AND REFILLING YOUR CYLINDERS
Journalist Andrew Ditton of Caravan Magazine discovers that topping up with LP Gas is no more difficult than filling a car with petrol!

Line up the filler nozzle to the two lugs and then give it a third of a turn clockwise to seal it securely.

Now I’m noticing the first major difference between the LPG pump and a petrol pump - you pull the trigger and nothing happens at first. there’s nothing to worry about, just keep a grip on the trigger and locate the small clip. Use this clip to keep the trigger in place.

When the clip is holding the trigger, you can let go. If the clip is not engaged fully, the nozzle will release and a small spurt of gas will escape. This is nothing to worry about. Try again and use the clip to keep the nozzle pulled in.

Now everything is set up securely. Double check that the display reads zero and you are ready to start dispensing gas.

There is a big red plunger on the pump that you need to keep depressed to dispense LPG. If you let go, the gas stops. Press again and the pump resumes. Once your Gaslow system has received 80 per cent capacity, the pump will stop automatically. You cannot fill more than that for safety reasons.

After releasing the plunger, unclip the trigger and remove the nozzle by twisting it anti-clockwise one third of a turn. Be careful, as it may be very cold. You’ll hear a small rush of gas as the nozzle depressurises. This is normal. All that remains is to replace the nozzle, pay the cashier and try to resist the urge to spend all your savings on chocolate!!