

# THE PROPANE UPDATE

PLUMBING

HVAC

NEWS



Welcome to *The Propane Update*, a newsletter from the Propane Council of Texas, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 education & marketing foundation.

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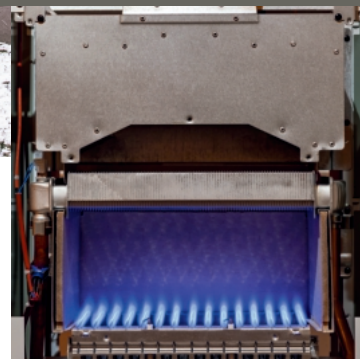
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# Time Running Out for Propane Appliance Rebates

## Don't let your customers miss out on propane water heater, boiler & furnace rebates

The Texas Saves with Propane Appliance Rebate Program offers rebates to Texas end-users who purchase and install qualifying new propane appliances. This program is administered by the Propane Council of Texas and aims to encourage the adoption of propane-powered appliances, which are known for their efficiency and reliability.

### Eligible Appliances and Rebates

The program covers appliance upgrades, replacements, and new construction projects in Texas.

Rebates are available for the following appliances:

- Propane water heater or boiler: \$300
- Propane furnace (including propane hybrid units): \$300
- The maximum rebate amount per residential or commercial property is \$600.

### Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the rebates, your customers, the end-users must provide:

- A qualifying proof of purchase dated between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023
- A propane safety inspection conducted by a licensed propane provider

### How to Apply



To apply for a rebate, your customers must contact their local propane provider. The propane provider will assist with the application process and submit the completed rebate package to the Propane Council of Texas.


Your customers can learn more about the program and check the status of the 2023 propane appliance rebate funds with the live rebate calculator at

<https://txsaveswithpropane.com>.

**Questions?** Please call 512-883-9925 or email [rebates@propanecounciloftexas.org](mailto:rebates@propanecounciloftexas.org).



 <https://tsbpe.texas.gov/> 

 **Ask Kevin**

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) has integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) into its services with the "Ask Kevin" tool. Tailored for plumbers visiting the TSBPE website, it efficiently addresses queries on Texas plumbing law and rules. Tapping into extensive documentation, it covers the Texas Plumbing License Law and the Board's Rules. The AI ensures security and transparency by accessing only publicly available data. "Ask Kevin" has notably reduced support emails by 37%, showcasing its rapid adoption and demand.

"Ask Kevin" is accessible at [tsbpe.texas.gov](https://tsbpe.texas.gov).



# The Importance of Right Sizing

As professionals in the HVAC and plumbing industry, ensuring the safety and efficiency of propane gas distribution piping systems is paramount. One critical aspect often overlooked is the proper sizing of propane systems, which is essential for delivering the right amount of gas pressure to appliances. Incorrect sizing can lead to issues such as incomplete combustion, hazardous chemical production, and potential safety hazards like carbon monoxide formation.

## **Understanding the Basics: Sizing Gas Piping**

Propane gas distribution piping must be tailored to meet the distinct load requirements of different appliances. Whether assessing the current system demand or planning to add new appliances to the distribution system, professionals should regularly evaluate and verify that the size of the piping aligns with the required pressure for safe and efficient operation. In propane systems, the key difference from natural gas lies in both the actual size and the gas pressure supplied. Propane piping systems, designed for higher gas pressure, generally have smaller diameters compared to natural gas piping systems. For instance, while natural gas piping systems might operate at 7" w.c., propane systems typically require 11" w.c. This smaller diameter is possible due to the increased pressure needed to meet the manufacturer's requirements for propane appliances.

## **Ensuring Correct Sizing: Tips for Professionals**

1. Consult NFPA for Pipe Sizing: Always refer to NFPA 54 for interior piping and NFPA 58 code for exterior piping sizing and requirements.
2. Identifying Sizing Issues: Conduct system flow pressure and lockup tests to identify sizing problems. If gas pressure is low at the appliance during operation, verify the final stage regulator's correct pressure supply. Low pressure at the appliance could indicate a pipe sizing issue.
3. Addressing Common Problems: If issues persist, troubleshoot components such as the first stage regulator at the storage tank, underground gas piping, second-stage regulator defects, or container sizing. Collaborate with the propane gas provider to rectify any identified problems promptly.

## **Key Takeaways:**

- Propane System Specifics: Understand the distinctions between gas piping for natural gas and propane, particularly in terms of size and pressure requirements.
- Recognizing Undersized Tanks: Identify when a propane storage tank may be undersized for the connected gas demand, ensuring the vaporization rate exceeds the demand.
- Monitoring Regulator Performance: Regularly check regulators for correct and constant gas pressure to enable efficient and safe operation of gas-burning appliances.
- Consulting Propane Gas Providers: When selecting regulators or troubleshooting issues, consult with propane gas suppliers to ensure the right components for specific applications.
- Prioritizing Safety: Correctly sizing a piping system is crucial to supplying the correct volume of gas at the proper pressure, avoiding issues such as improper combustion, appliance malfunction, and potential safety hazards.

Optimal propane appliance and system operations depend on correctly sizing propane piping. Technicians can achieve this by following national propane industry standards, conducting regular assessments, and collaborating with propane gas providers. This approach ensures the safety and efficiency of propane systems and appliances.



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WINTER 2023

## The Propane Update: *Plumbing & HVAC News*

The Propane Council of Texas has released its Winter 2023 edition of the plumbing HVAC newsletter, *The Propane Update*. The newsletter comes out twice a year sharing the latest on incentives, rebates, new propane applications, rules, code & standards, resources, training, and other information that would be useful for plumbers and HVAC techs.

Check out our Winter 2023 edition now. ►

