

CHANGING A PROPANE TANK

If you have a gas grill or similar item at home, from time to time you'll need to change that propane bottle. This is not as hard as it may look, but there are a few things to remember that can make life a lot easier.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

Exchange a propane tank. If you do not need to exchange one right now, you can still go through all the steps (except for going to the store), so that you are sure of the practical steps of accomplishing this.

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First of all, you need to own a propane tank. So, if for instance, you just bought yourself a shiny new gas grill, the first thing you have to do is purchase a tank. When you go to your local store, you have probably seen cages full of propane tanks. These are an exchange program. The first time you use them you'll have to buy a propane tank. From then on, you simply return your empty tank and the store will exchange it for a full one. You only have to pay for the propane, as you are now a proud propane tank owner. You can generally exchange at any store, regardless of the brand of the propane and where you bought your original tank.

So, you are at home on a beautiful sunny day, ready to grill, and you discover that you have no propane.

1. Turn off the gas with that large metal wheel on top, righty-tighty.

2. Unscrew the hose. This is the black rubber hose that goes from the tank to the grill or whatever it is that it's attached to. Lefty-loosey will release this. In some situations, you may need a wrench. But for the most part it should be a simple gripable connector.

3. Remove that tank from the housing that it is in. It will be a little heavy, so be careful.

Don't strain your back, especially if you are in an awkward position.

4. Clean the tank. If the tank has been in a grill, it may have been splashed with fat or have other residue on it. It is generally your responsibility to return a tank that is clean and ready for filling.

5. Once you have obtained your new tank (it will be significantly heavier), prepare it for fitting back on the grill.

Remove the plastic cover from the nozzle, but before you put this tank into the housing of the item that it is used on, make sure everything looks to be in good order. The hose is not damaged or worn and everything looks to be in good safe working order.

6. Place the tank in, attach the hose (righty-tighty), open the valve on top (lefty-loosey), and enjoy the fruit of your labor.

