

Use Propane Camping Stove for Emergency Cooking!



For about \$30, you can buy a single-burner propane camping stove and two green 1-lb. propane cylinders. This is an excellent way to be able to cook if a power outage renders your kitchen stove unusable!

The single-burner stove twists onto the threads atop a green 1-lb. propane cylinder. Put the bottom of the propane cylinder into the plastic base cup for stability. Use some soapy water around the base of the threads to check that the propane isn't leaking. (No soapy water? At camp some folks use saliva and wipe it off....) Put the stove on a sturdy flat surface, like a kitchen counter.

Light a match, and turn the valve on. There should be a hissing noise, then you can light the gas ring - the part with all the little holes out of which the propane is hissing. You should get a beautiful light blue flame all around the ring. Use the valve to make the flame larger for more heat for cooking. The propane cylinder should last for 4 to 6 hours of cooking.

When you're ready to store the stove away, be sure to let it cool. Twist the section at the bottom of the stove, just over the threads on the propane cylinder, to remove the propane burner. Then check the propane cylinder for leaks. First put the valve, which is inside the threaded portion, up to your ear and listen for a leak. Next put a little bit of water on the valve and look for bubbles. If the propane cylinder is leaking, put it outdoors where it can safely leak itself empty - somewhere like the back fence in the backyard, but not anywhere near an open flame or in enclosed space.

You can buy these propane camping stoves in sporting goods stores and often in the camping section at Wal-Mart. They usually sell the propane, too. Propane stores for decades! Still, keep it where it would be safe if it leaked - not an enclosed space, not near an open flame from a water heater, etc.