



Propane



Propane is a gas.
It comes from oil and natural gas.



Propane

TEACHER

Propane is the gas we use to fuel our backyard grills and heat some homes. It is a lot like natural gas—you cannot see it, smell it, or taste it, but you can burn it to make heat energy.

Propane is a **fossil fuel**. It was formed hundreds of millions of years ago, long before the dinosaurs. Like oil and natural gas, it was formed from tiny sea animals and plants. The plants got their energy from the sun. This is the energy in propane. Propane's energy came from the sun.

Propane is buried underground mixed with natural gas and petroleum. It has to be separated out at natural gas cleaning plants and oil refineries. Even though propane has been around for millions of years, it was only discovered a little more than 100 years ago! Right away scientists knew they had found a good energy source.

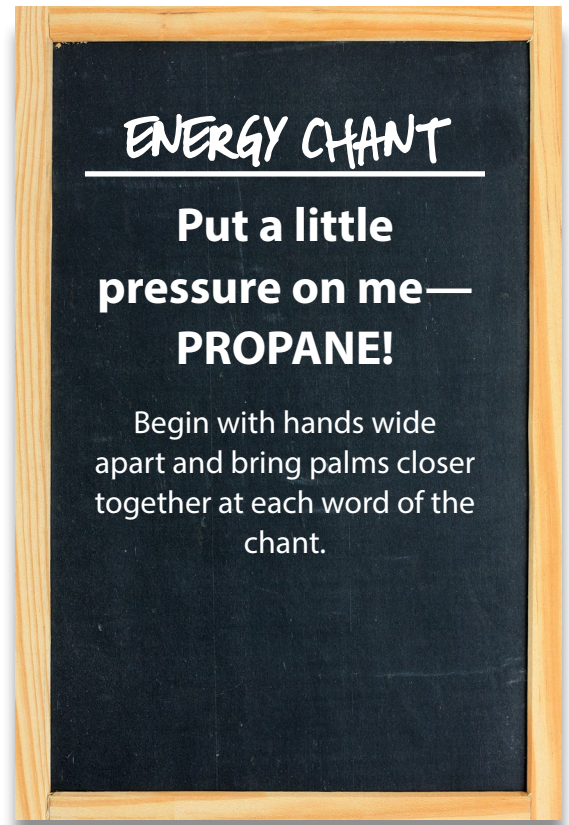
Many farms in the United States use propane to dry crops, run tractors, and heat barns. Businesses use propane for heating and cooking. Most vehicles that we drive inside buildings, like forklifts and carts, use propane for fuel. It is a clean fuel. It does not pollute the air.

Some people in the country cannot get natural gas pipelines to their homes. They use propane instead. They put big propane tanks outside their houses. Small trucks bring the propane right to their houses.

When propane comes out of the ground, it is a gas. When it is put under pressure, it becomes a liquid. A lot more liquid can be put into a tank than gas. A tank of propane gas might last a week. The same sized tank of liquid propane would last five years!

Liquid propane is easy to move from place to place in tanks. It is **portable**—that means easy to move. We use small tanks of propane for our barbecue grills. One tank can last all summer.

Some cars and buses use propane for fuel. It is a very clean fuel. It does not pollute the air like gasoline does. Engines must be changed to use propane though, and that is expensive.





Propane Grill

Propane makes heat when it is burned. We can use it to cook food.

Propane is a clean fuel. We can use it to fuel machines used indoors.



Forklift