

BBQ Gas Leak Test

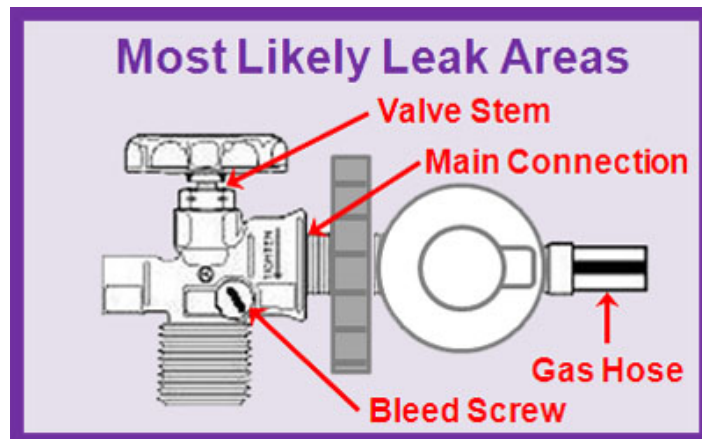
It is important to regularly leak test your BBQ gas bottle, regulator and hose.

Leaks from these items are frequently the cause of BBQ gas fires.

<http://www.elgas.com.au/blog/505-bbq-gas-leak-test-gas-grill-barbecue>

Also available on their website blogs – where you best to locate BBQ's on balconies etc.

Common Problem Areas



Main Connection:



- The standard BBQ regulator in Australia is a POL regulator.
- The male connector of the regulator, which screws into the **POL gas valve** on your gas bottle, may have a rubber O-ring seal or it may rely on a metal to metal contact seal.
- You should always inspect the regulator for damage, paying special attention to the connector, which screws into the gas bottle.
- If it has a rubber O-ring, it also needs to be undamaged.
- The connector and the female valve opening should both be clean and undamaged.
- Pieces of dirt, nicks and scratches can prevent the two components from sealing, resulting in a leak.

Gas Hose



- The gas hose is attached to the regulator on one end and the BBQ on the other end.
- It can become damaged or deteriorate with age.
- Dogs and other animals can also cause damage by chewing on the dangling hose.
- Visually inspect the hose for cracking, splitting or other damage.
- You should replace the hose if it shows any signs of damage or degradation.
- It is good practice to replace the entire regulator and hose assembly, if it is old enough for the hose to have deteriorated, as regulators also wear with age.

Valve Stem



- In Australia, BBQ gas bottles must be tested every ten years.
- The gas valve is changed upon inspection and the valves are expected to last for the full ten years.
- However, occasionally the valve will fail prematurely and start leaking from around the valve stem. This is rare but it can happen.
- Please see [Gas Bottle-Cylinder Testing Facts](#) for more information on the ten-year testing process.

Bleed Screw



- The bleed screw is a small slotted screw on the side of the valve that lets gas vapour bleed off during the decanting refill process.
- The refill technician opens it during the filling process and closes it, when done.
- The screw can develop a slow leak if it becomes loose.

How To Do The Test

When to Test

The BBQ gas bottle, regulator & hose assembly should be checked for leaks, using the soapy water leak test, every time you **reconnect your regulator** to the BBQ gas bottle. You should also test after any long period of non-use, such as at the beginning of BBQ season.

Soapy Water Solution

- You will need a soapy water solution to check for any leaks.
- Mixing liquid hand soap with water should work fine. Place the solution in a liquid spray bottle.
- It's a good idea to leave the spray bottle with the BBQ, so it's always a handy reminder to perform the leak test.



No Ammonia

- Your BBQ valve and fittings are made from brass.
- You must never use any soapy water solution that contains ammonia, when you do your testing.
- Ammonia can cause brass to become brittle and crack.
- Be aware that ammonia is found in many pre-prepared glass and surface cleaners, so make sure you read the label before use.

How to Test

- Put some soapy water in a spray bottle or a dish.
- Turn on the **LPG gas** bottle without turning on the BBQ. This pressurises the system.
- Next, spray the entire valve, regulator and hose assembly with the soapy water.
- Alternatively, you can apply the soapy water with a paint brush, basting brush or it can even be sponged on.
- Bubbles will form if there is a gas leak and you may also smell the gas.
- You need to test the entire assembly from the gas bottle valve all the way to where the gas hose attaches to the BBQ.



Remember to always test the lot every time you re-connect your gas bottle.

If you find a leak, turn off the gas bottle immediately!

Do not turn back on or attempt to use the BBQ until the problem is rectified.