



Safety Note

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Portable Butane Stove Safety

Information provided here is intended for use by program representatives, master food preservers, and those they train.



Portable butane stoves are popular on camping trips, tailgate parties, boats, at cooking demos, and restaurants. Portable stoves are useful but can also be dangerous if not used or maintained properly. Flaws in design or misuse can cause fires and explosions. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire departments responded to an average of 166,100 home fires a year that involved cooking equipment. These cooking fires caused an average of 480 deaths, 5,540 injuries and 1.1 billion in property damage. Master Food Preservers must be trained in the safe use of portable butane stoves prior to using them for cooking.

Portable Butane Stove Safety Tips

- Always use the stove according to the manufacturer's instructions (keep the user manual available).
- Inspect the stove, canister, and all parts to verify they are in good working condition.
- Butane stoves must be used in well ventilated areas or they can present a carbon monoxide hazard.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby when using portable butane stoves.
- Portable stoves must be used on level, flat and sturdy non-flammable surfaces.
- Ensure stove and canister valves are in the off position prior to connecting together.
- Make sure there are no butane leaks at connections when operating the stove.
- Do not operate the stove longer than the time recommended by the manufacturer.
- Avoid wrapping aluminum foil on or around the burners.
- Do not modify the butane stove, which can render the stove unsafe.
- Do not use the stove unattended.
- Do not wear loose clothing that can come in contact with the stove.
- Turn off the stove immediately when done using.
- Do not put combustible materials on a stove top when the stove is not in use.
- Never keep dish towels, paper towels, aprons or pot holders near the stove.
- Cool the stove before removing the canister and cleaning.
- Store canisters in a cool, dry location away from heat sources.
- Do not store butane canisters in a hot closed vehicle, including the trunk.
- Have available, and always use pot holders or oven gloves when handling hot items.
- Do not shake or drop the butane canister. If damaged, do not use.
- If you have a burn injury, seek first aid and medical treatment as needed.