If you currently own your above-ground container or are considering purchasing one, you should be aware of your responsibilities regarding the safe operation and maintenance of your container.

By understanding your role in keeping your propane container operating safely and efficiently, you can keep your family secure and enjoy all the benefits that propane delivers.

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**
A well-maintained container will last for many years. It is important that you know how your container and delivery system work, what your responsibilities are, and what to do in the event of a safety-related emergency.

Customers who own their containers are responsible for the upkeep and protection of the container. It is also your responsibility to comply with all local, state, and national code requirements.

Propane container installation, maintenance, and repair should be performed only by a qualified service technician. If you own your container, you are responsible for finding a qualified service technician to service your container. It is a good idea to identify and talk to qualified service technicians — before a problem occurs — to make sure they are capable of servicing your container in a timely and safe manner.

Many propane marketers provide preventive maintenance and repair services. Ask a propane marketer for more information on these programs.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the DOT require periodic recertification of stationary cylinders by qualified service technicians. DOT stationary cylinder recertification periods vary from five to twelve years. The owner is responsible for the cost to recertify the cylinder.

**LOCATION OF CONTAINERS**
Propane containers have distance and placement requirements depending on the type of container. For example, ASME tanks must be installed at least 10 feet from a building or line of an adjoining property.

When installing your container and any enclosures around the container such as fences or boxes, there are code requirements that you must follow. Also, keep in mind that a propane delivery truck and personnel will need clear access to the container.

Customers who own their containers are responsible for the upkeep and protection of the container.

**WHAT IS A PROpane CONTAINER?**
Propane containers come in many sizes and shapes. There are two basic types of containers for residential and commercial use: American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) tanks and Department of Transportation (DOT) cylinders.

ASME tanks are a common type of container used by customers to provide fuel for their homes. These tanks are typically installed horizontally and range in size from 120 to more than 1,000 gallons. You can identify an ASME tank by the data plate located under its dome. An ASME tank will have a “clover leaf” marking on the nameplate.

DOT cylinders that provide fuel for homes are called stationary service cylinders. A stationary service cylinder is usually installed vertically and tends to be smaller in size than an ASME tank. A stationary service cylinder will have a stamped marking on the collar identifying it as a DOT cylinder.

It is important to know which type of propane container you own. There are specific requirements and responsibilities for each type of container.
Protecting Your Container Against Extreme Weather
Make sure your container and propane system are properly secured for all types of extreme weather that may occur in your area. It is your responsibility to have your container repaired and inspected by a qualified service technician if damaged from extreme weather such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and high winds.

Understand Your Container Warranty
Some manufacturers will extend their warranty only to the original purchaser of the container. If you purchase a container from a dealer or other party, the warranty will be voided. Make sure you understand the terms and conditions of the warranty before you decide to purchase a container.

Check with Your Homeowner’s Insurance Provider
Some insurers may have special conditions or requirements specific to container ownership. It is a good idea to contact your homeowner’s insurance provider, inform them that you own your container, and confirm that you have insurance coverage in the event of a problem.

Protecting Your Container From Flooding
In areas prone to flooding, national regulations require that propane containers be anchored securely to avoid potentially dangerous situations. You must have your container properly anchored if you live in or near a flood plain, or in an area where coastal flooding may occur.

Protecting Your Container Against an Earthquake
In areas prone to earthquakes, local codes may require you to securely anchor your container. Check with your local authorities or a propane marketer in your area to see if any code requirements apply.

Painting Your Container
Propane containers must be painted to help prevent corrosion. In most cases, your container will already be painted when you purchase it. If you do paint your container, use only reflective colors. Do not paint the data plate or any valves, gauges, or warning labels. If the data plate is not legible, the container may not be able to be refilled. Contact a propane marketer for more information on location requirements for your specific container.

Additional Resources and Information
For more information on the responsibilities, rules, and maintenance requirements of propane container ownership described in this brochure, please contact your local propane marketer.

If you need assistance in determining when you will need to recertify your DOT stationary cylinder, contact a propane marketer, the DOT, or the NFPA.

Contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a propane marketer, or the container manufacturer for more information on the proper anchoring of a propane container in areas prone to flooding.

To learn more about propane, or the Propane Education & Research Council, visit usepropane.com.