



Q&A FACT SHEET (Canada)

Coleman® Green Key® Tool for Disposal of Non-Refillable Propane Cylinders

The Green Key® tool is a simple plastic device that, when inserted into an empty non-refillable Coleman® propane cylinder, will open the cylinder to the atmosphere, rendering the cylinder depressurized, so it no longer contains flammable material and can be diverted from the waste stream. After insertion into an empty propane cylinder, the Green Key® tool is permanently locked into the top of the cylinder and becomes a visible indicator that the cylinder no longer requires the special handling associated with hazardous waste.



Why is the Green Key® tool necessary?

After all fuel is exhausted from a cylinder in use on an appliance, less than 1 gram of fuel remains. The Coleman® Green Key® tool allows this small amount of fuel to dissipate into the atmosphere, so that the cylinder can be diverted, recycled or otherwise handled outside the hazardous waste stream.

How does the Green Key® tool work?

The Green Key® tool is manually inserted into the outlet valve of the empty cylinder, opening it to the atmosphere so that all pressure and vapour is released. The following warning and instructions will be on Coleman® propane cylinder labels produced as of May 15, 2008, and can be found online at www.colemancanada.ca/recycle.

WARNING: The Coleman® Green Key® tool must be used on an empty propane cylinder in a clear and open outdoor area. Keep away from open flames or other sources of ignition, tents, buildings and other structures. Failure to follow all instructions and warnings could result in fire, burns, property damage, serious injury or death.

INSTRUCTIONS: Ensure the cylinder is empty by operating with an appliance until the flame is extinguished. Use the appliance cylinder probe (fig. 1) to push the tool from the cap. Place empty cylinder upright onto level outdoor surface and push tool into valve (fig. 2). Allow two minutes before recycling or disposal. Do not reinstall black cap on propane cylinder. Recycle cap separately. When the cylinder is empty, use of the Green Key® tool is unlikely to produce the sound or smell of vapor. If the cylinder warms, you may hear or smell vapor escaping for a brief moment.

The Green Key® tool is permanently locked into the top of the cylinder and indicates the cylinder is empty, depressurized and ready for proper disposal or steel recycling.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

What if the Green Key® tool falls off the cylinder?

After proper insertion, the tool will be permanently locked into the cylinder valve. If it comes out, it was not inserted properly, and should be inserted again, following the instructions on the label.

What if the tool is accidentally inserted into a non-empty cylinder?

The propane will be released into the surrounding air at a controlled rate, with a full cylinder becoming empty after approximately 45 minutes. That is why it is important that a propane cylinder be used with a propane appliance first to ensure it is empty before inserting the Green Key® tool. It is also why the Coleman label says to use the tool in a clear and open outdoor area, away from open flames or other sources of ignition, tents, buildings and other structures.

Can an empty propane cylinder be thrown into the trash?

In Canada, any non-refillable propane cylinder that remains sealed (has not been vented with a Green Key® tool) is considered to be hazardous waste, whether it contains fuel or not. All non-vented cylinders must be disposed of using the available hazardous waste facilities.

Municipalities may choose to accept cylinders vented with Green Key® tools in their recycling programs, or may collect them by other means and divert them for sale as scrap metal.

Can a vented (empty and open) propane cylinder be recycled?

A cylinder with a Green Key® tool inserted in the valve can be considered to be scrap metal. However, because most municipalities do not yet have the ability to segregate vented cylinders from sealed cylinders, they may not accept them in their blue box programs at this time. All municipalities have the objective of diverting used cylinders from the landfill stream and may use other methods to collect the cylinders with Green Key® tools and recover the value of the scrap metal.

Coleman Canada, a Division of Sunbeam Corporation (Canada) Ltd., is cooperating with municipalities to facilitate the collection of vented cylinders in curbside programs. Coleman Canada also is working with the scrap metal industry by providing technical information and data to assist in the diversion of the maximum number of empty cylinders from landfill to recovery and recycling.

When and where will the Green Key® tool be available?

Coleman will begin supplying the new Coleman® propane cylinders with the Green Key® tools in the caps in spring 2008. By June, these new cylinders will be available on the shelves of select Canadian retailers. Propane cylinders with Green Key® tools will be clearly labeled for easy identification. For existing cylinders, consumers will be able to purchase Green Key® tools separately. For participating retailers, go to www.colemancanada.ca.

What does it cost?

The Green Key® tool will come with every Coleman® propane cylinder at no additional cost. Purchased separately, the Green Key® tools come in packages of six at a nominal retail price.

Why is Coleman doing this?

As a result of its long association with the outdoors, Coleman shares the passion of today's outdoor enthusiasts to be responsible stewards of the environment, to keep the outdoors great for future generations. Like many other steel products, Coleman's non-refillable propane cylinders already are made with an average minimum 25 percent recycled content. The Green Key® tool is just one example of the efforts Coleman is making to reduce carbon emissions, improve its processes and practice the three R's – reduce, reuse and recycle – in order to minimize waste and conserve our natural resources.

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