

Disposal Instructions for Coleman® Propane Cylinders with the Green Key® tool



In 2009, The Coleman Company included a Green Key® tool with each of our propane canisters. We used the Green Key® program as a way to increase empty propane canister recycling. Unfortunately, the program was not accepted by many recycling agencies across the country. As a result, the Green Key® tool will no longer be included with the purchase of our Coleman® propane cylinders.

The information below is for those of you who have green keys already, and need directions for using them.

Coleman strongly urges the recycling of propane cylinders, if possible, in your area and hope to offer more information on recycling the cylinders in the near future.

Contact your local steel recycler to verify they will accept Coleman® Propane Cylinders with the Green Key® tool for recycling. Below are the instructions on how to properly use the Green Key® tool on an EMPTY 16.4 oz. propane cylinder.

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

To use the Coleman® **Green Key® tool**:

First ensure the propane cylinder is EMPTY by following these instructions:

- Take the EMPTY cylinder outdoors away from any open flame or ignition source as they can ignite leaking gas.
- Attach the EMPTY cylinder to an appliance.
- In an outdoor, well-ventilated area, open the control valve on the appliance and light the burner(s).
- Operate the appliance until the flame completely extinguishes.
- Turn the appliance control valve off and let appliance cool.
- Detach the EMPTY cylinder.

Then follow these instructions to activate the Coleman® Green Key® Tool:

- Use the appliance cylinder probe (fig. 1) to push the **Green Key® tool** from the black cap.
- Place EMPTY cylinder upright onto level outdoor surface away from any open flame or ignition source and push the **Green Key® tool** into cylinder valve (fig. 2).
- Allow two minutes before recycling or disposal.
- When the cylinder is empty, use of the **Green Key® tool** is unlikely to produce the sound of escaping fuel or the smell of fuel vapor. If the cylinder warms, you may hear or smell vapor escaping for a brief moment.
- The **Green Key® tool** is now permanently locked into the top of the cylinder and indicates the cylinder is empty, depressurized, and ready for proper steel recycling or disposal.
- Do not reinstall the black cap on to the propane cylinder. Recycle cap separately.
- Recycle the EMPTY cylinder according to your local steel recycler's instructions.

- If a propane cylinder recycling program is not yet offered by your local steel recycler, dispose of the EMPTY cylinder in an outdoor trash container for the next normal trash collection.

Disposal Instructions for Coleman® Propane Cylinders without the Green Key® tool

Unfortunately, residential recycling programs for propane cylinders are not yet available in many areas. If a propane cylinder recycling program is not yet offered by your local steel recycler, below are instructions to properly dispose of an EMPTY 16.4 oz. propane cylinder.

CAUTION: Read and follow instructions and warning on the propane cylinder before disposal to avoid serious injury or death!

To properly dispose of an EMPTY 16.4 oz. propane cylinder:

- Take the EMPTY cylinder outdoors away from any open flame or ignition source as they can ignite leaking gas.
- Attach the EMPTY cylinder to an appliance.
- In an outdoor, well-ventilated area, open the control valve on the appliance and light the burner(s).
- Operate the appliance until the flame completely extinguishes.
- Turn the appliance control valve off and let appliance cool.
- Detach the EMPTY cylinder.
- Dispose of the EMPTY cylinder in an OUTDOOR trash container for the next normal trash collection.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Q&A Fact Sheet Coleman® Green Key® Tool for Disposal of Single-Use Propane Cylinders

The Coleman Green Key® tool has been discontinued. If you already have the tool, the information below describes how to best use the Green Key® tool to ensure that all propane has been released from your cylinder.

The Green Key® tool is a simple plastic device that, when inserted into an empty propane cylinder, will release any remaining fumes, rendering the cylinder depressurized and ready to be discarded or recycled where available.

After insertion into an empty propane cylinder, any remaining fumes are released and the tool is permanently locked into the cylinder and becomes an easily visible sign that the cylinder can be discarded along with regular household trash or recycled when and where steel can recycling programs are in place that have added this type of container.

Why is the Green Key® tool necessary?

If the cylinders are properly "burned off" with an appliance, less than 1 gram of fuel remains, meaning

the cylinders can be discarded with household trash. However, some individuals may be concerned about accidentally discarding a cylinder they are not certain is empty. The Green Key® tool will give them peace of mind.

In addition, the Green Key® tool is an important component in Coleman's efforts to begin encouraging widespread adoption of the empty steel cylinders into community recycling programs.

How does the Green Key® tool work?

The Green Key® tool is manually inserted into the outlet valve of the empty cylinder and in approximately two minutes the remaining fumes are released. The following warning and instructions will be on Coleman® propane cylinder labels produced as of May 15, 2008, and can be found - along with more information - at www.coleman.com/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.

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

After proper insertion, the tool will be permanently locked into the cylinder. If it comes out, it wasn't inserted properly and needs to 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 Green Key® 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?

Yes, after a cylinder is empty, it can be discarded with regular household trash. Knowing the Green Key® tool has opened the cylinder and released any remaining fumes gives individuals extra peace of mind before discarding it.

Can an empty propane cylinder be refilled or recycled?

Federal law forbids transportation of this size of cylinder (type 39 DOT cylinder) if it has been refilled, therefore refilling is not practical or recommended.

With a Green Key® tool inserted in it, the vented cylinder is capable of being recycled, but most individuals will not be able to recycle it until widespread integration of the cylinders into local steel recycling programs. The potential is there: In the United States, steel cans are included in 97 percent of all curbside recycling programs and 81 percent of all drop-off programs. The Coleman Company, Inc. is in the beginning stages of inviting communities in the United States and Canada to integrate empty propane cylinders into programs for steel recycling. Coleman also is providing information to waste haulers and recycling facilities on how to divert these empty cylinders from landfill to recycling.

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