



# Facts About . . . Recycling

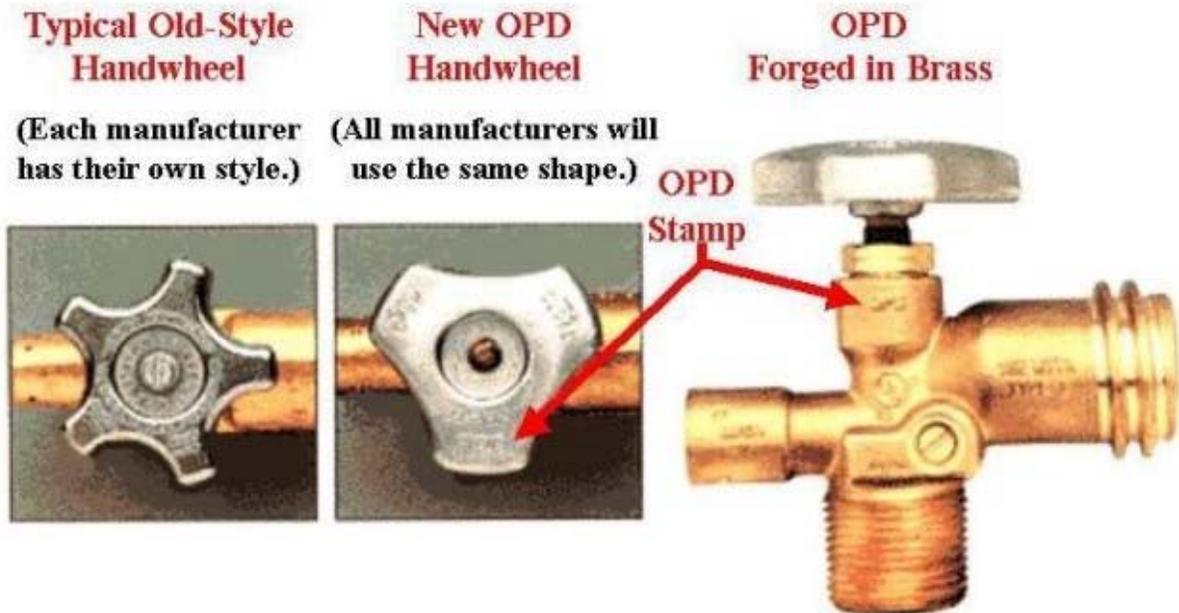
## Propane Cylinder Recycling

### Ruling on Propane Cylinders

The National Fire Protection Association has enacted a national standard (NFPA 58, Section 2.3.1.5) that states as of April 1, 2002:

- All new cylinders must be manufactured with overfill protection devices (OPDs); and
- Cylinders without OPDs are no longer permitted to be refilled by anyone.

The OPD, which is a part of the filling valve, serves as a safety shut-off device and prevents overfilling of propane cylinders to avert propane release, fire and possible injury. The OPD is located inside the cylinder. A specially calibrated float activates to stop the flow of gas into the cylinder before an unsafe fill level is reached.



### How Can I Tell If My Cylinder Has An Overfill Protection Device (OPD)?

The old-style handwheels have a round or star-shaped valve wheel. New OPD handwheels have a triangular valve wheel and contain an OPD stamp on the valve hand wheel and the side of the valve.

## What If My Cylinder Does Not Have An OPD?

If you have a propane cylinder that does not have an OPD, it cannot be refilled and must be upgraded with the new OPD valve (effective April 1, 2002). You may choose to have the old valve removed and replaced with an OPD or you can take your old cylinder to an exchange facility and pay an upgrade fee for a new cylinder with the OPD device. Exchange facilities are located at your local hardware stores (i.e. True Value), convenience stores (i.e. Walmart) and propane companies (i.e. Blue Rhino).

## What Can I Do With My Old Cylinder?

Call or visit your local propane dealer to ask if they can exchange or accept your cylinder. Most propane dealers will take your old cylinder and charge a one-time upgrade fee in exchange for a new cylinder with an OPD or they will take your old cylinder and refurbish and reuse it. If you already purchased a new cylinder and want to get rid of your old one, contact the exchange facilities that will accept old cylinders for drop-off. You can also contact your county recycling coordinator through the web site at [www.mde.state.md.us/Recycling](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Recycling).

If for some reason, you are unable to exchange your old cylinder, RECYCLE it. Propane cylinders are made of metal that can be recycled as metal scrap. Some landfills will accept old cylinders provided that the valve be removed. Please call ahead before you drop off at the landfill or call your County recycling coordinator for more information.

## DANGERS of Propane Cylinders

- ⊘ If your cylinder is damaged or obsolete, **do not abandon it!** Abandoned propane cylinders could create serious environmental and safety problems.
- ⊘ **Do not dispose of your cylinder in a dumpster or other disposal container!** This could create an explosion hazard.
- ⊘ Avoid cutting the tank or wheel valve with a torch. Your cylinder may still contain propane and create a potential fire and explosion hazard.
- ⊘ Always keep your propane cylinder stored upright until you can recycle or exchange it safely.



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719  
410-537-3315 • 800-633-6101 x3315 (within Maryland) • [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

