

MARK'S TIPS PROPANE TANK SELECTION & PLACEMENT

Here are the pros and cons of both above ground and buried propane tanks for a single-family home:

Above Ground Propane Tanks:

Pros:

1. Easy installation and accessibility for maintenance and refilling.
2. More Cost-effective compared to buried tanks.
3. Easily monitored for leaks or issues.
4. Little to no excavation required, making it suitable for properties with limited space or rocky terrain.

Cons:

1. Aesthetically less appealing as it is visible on the property.
2. May require a stable concrete pad to bear the weight.
3. Vulnerable to damage from extreme weather conditions.
4. Potential for theft or vandalism.
5. May require additional safety measures like fencing and protection from vehicle or lawn mower impact.

Buried Propane Tanks*:

Pros:

1. Aesthetically pleasing as it is hidden underground.
2. Less prone to damage from extreme weather conditions.
3. Provides more usable yard space.
4. Reduced risk of theft or vandalism.

Cons:

1. Higher initial installation costs due to excavation requirements.
2. More difficult to access for refilling and maintenance.
3. Potential for underground leaks, though rare, can be challenging to detect.
4. Limited options for relocation if needed.

How And Why You Should Anchor Your Propane Tank Both Above And Below Ground

Now let's talk about the importance of anchoring your propane tank, both above and below ground. As an architectural designer who's passionate about safety and functionality, I'm here to shed some light on why this is a crucial step. So, let's jump right in!

Why Anchor Your Propane Tank?

1. Safety First:

Anchoring your propane tank ensures stability, reducing the risk of accidents caused by tipping or shifting. Whether it's extreme weather conditions, accidental bumps, or flooding, a securely anchored tank provides peace of mind.

2. Protection Against Damage:

Propane tanks are a sizable investment, and protecting that investment is essential. Anchoring your tank helps prevent damage from popping-up or floating if it's buried, tipping over if its pad settles or if it's bumped when mounted above ground, or even potential vandalism.

3. Compliance with Regulations:

Following local regulations is crucial when it comes to propane tanks. Many jurisdictions require tanks to be anchored for safety reasons. By adhering to these guidelines, you're not only keeping yourself safe but also staying on the right side of the law.

Anchoring Above Ground:

1. Concrete Pads:

Placing your propane tank on a stable concrete pad provides a solid foundation. This pad should be flat, level, and able to support the weight of the tank. It helps distribute the load evenly, preventing sinking or tilting.

2. Secure Straps or Brackets:

Utilizing secure straps or brackets around the tank and connecting them to stable anchor points, such as a screwed-in anchor rods, posts set in concrete, or even the support pad if local code permits. Anchoring adds an extra layer of security. The straps or brackets should be made of durable materials that can withstand the elements.

3. Distance from Combustible Materials:

When anchoring above ground, ensure that your tank is positioned at a safe distance from combustible materials. This includes structures, vegetation, and other potential fire hazards. Safety always comes first!

Anchoring Below Ground:

1. Protecting Against Tank Pop-up:

Anchoring your propane tank below ground helps protect it from popping-up or floating. As you use the propane from the tank the space where the propane was becomes an air bubble in the tank until the tank is refilled. As the fill dirt (typically sand) settles around the tank, water can fill the void around the tank. As the propane is used the tank will tend to float to the surface and need to be re-buried. When the soil around the buried tank becomes saturated with water, the air bubble will cause the tank to gradually float to the surface. Properly anchoring a buried propane tank will overcome this floating tendency shielding the tank and the supply line from potential damage caused by floating. I experienced this first hand. I had a tank float at home. So I always insist that my underground tanks are anchored down before the dirt is filled in around the tank. A simple Google search will also validate this potential problem.

2. Professional Installation:

Anchoring a propane tank below ground is not rocket science. However, a qualified technician can assess the site, determine the appropriate depth, and install the tank securely. This ensures a safe and reliable setup and recourse if there ever is a problem.

3. Enhanced Aesthetics:

Let's face it, propane tanks aren't typically known for their beauty. Burying the tank below ground allows you to maintain a clean and uncluttered outdoor space. It's like a hidden gem, tucked away out of sight.

Wrapping Up:

Anchoring your propane tank both above and below ground is a smart move that prioritizes safety, protects your investment, and keeps you in compliance with regulations. Whether it's by utilizing concrete pads, secure straps, or professional installations guarantees, taking these steps ensures a stable and secure setup that you can count on.

Remember, folks, safety is always the top priority. So, whether you're a homeowner or a business owner, make sure to anchor your propane tank properly, above and below ground. And if you need any assistance or advice, don't hesitate to reach out to professionals who can guide you through the process and code requirements.

Also consider this... Propane delivery trucks are HEAVY. Typically, they only have 100 foot hose lengths. (There are exceptions, of course.) Meyer3D recommends... You can save years of wear-and-tear on your driveway if you can place your tank within 90 feet from the road.

As always... Meyer3D recommends that you consult the local regulations and codes, as they can vary. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides guidelines for propane tank placement, and local authorities may adopt these guidelines or have their own regulations in place. It is recommended to contact your local County Building Department or a propane professional in your area to obtain the specific placement requirements for your location.