

Ensure barbecue safety

Device checks gas levels, detects leaks

IT is holiday time, the wine is poured, the salad is tossed and the guests eagerly await, but flick the switch and the barbecue gas has run out.

"It's every entertainer's nightmare," says Mr Graham Brake, managing director of appliance company Black and Stone.

Enter The Black and Stone Gas Safety Gauge - a simple and inexpensive gadget that screws directly into the gas cylinder. It shows how much gas is in the cylinder so you'll never run out and it saves you money because you can ensure the gas is completely empty before you pay for a re-fill," Mr Brake said.

"It also operates as an all-in-one safety device that detects leaks

and automatically shuts off the gas should a major leak occur.

"The barbecue is often treated like part of the outdoor furniture so it's easy to forget that it needs checking to ensure that it is safe, particularly if it has been standing unused."

Mr Brake said there are three things to remember when ensuring the barbecue is safe to use:

Position: Ensure the barbecue is at least one metre away from objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.

Cylinders and hoses: Barbecues are often exposed to harsh weather conditions when out of use which means hoses can split and connections can be damaged. Check the hose to make sure it has not per-

ished and make sure the gas connections are tight and leak free before using the barbecue, especially if the barbecue has been left idle for some time.

Gas: Check the gas cylinder. A gas cylinder must not be refilled if it has not been tested for over 10 years or if the cylinder has been damaged. Never use a barbecue on the wrong gas and don't use Autogas, as it differs from LP and natural gas. It is not safe (or legal) to fill a barbecue cylinder at an Autogas dispenser.

"The Black and Stone Gas Safety Gauge is a small price to pay for peace of mind," Mr Brake said.

It is available from Harvey Norman and leading hardware and barbecue retailers RRP \$34.95.

