

# Keeping the barbecue safe during the festive season

It's time to crank up the barbecue for al fresco summer dining but before you season the steak, make sure the barbecue is safe to use.

One way to ensure barbecue safety is the Black and Stone Gas Safety Gauge – a simple and inexpensive gadget that screws directly into the gas cylinder. It operates as an all-in-one safety device that detects leaks and automatically shuts off the gas should a major leak occur.

“The Gas Safety Gauge is a smart way to guarantee barbecue safety. It works on three levels: it can be used to detect minor leaks; it will automatically shut off if a major leak occurs; and it indicates the gas contents in the cylinder so you'll never be caught without gas again,” said Mr Brake.

The gauge also enables the amount of gas in the cylinder to be viewed at a glance with a special glow in the dark face ensuring that there is always enough gas available for entertaining family and friends.

“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 through the winter months,” says Mr Graham Brake, managing director of appliance company Black and Stone.

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

1. Position: Ensure the barbecue is at least one metre away from objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.
2. 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 perished 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.
3. 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 available from Harvey Norman and leading hardware and barbecue retailers RRP \$34.95. “It's a small price to pay for peace of mind,” said Mr Brake. Black and Stone is an Australian owned company committed to producing a range of high quality and affordable appliances and cooking accessories. For further information log on to Black and Stone at: [www.blackandstone.com.au](http://www.blackandstone.com.au).