

## safety first

You have your BBQ set up and the alfresco area is primed for entertaining, but is the space safe?

Managing director of Black and Stone Graham Brake says: "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's safe, particularly if it has been standing unused through the winter months."



Black and Stone's Gas Safety Gauge is a simple and inexpensive gadget that screws directly into the gas cylinder.

Graham says: "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."

Black and Stone also recommends you follow three steps to ensure the barbecue is safe to use:

**POSITION** Ensure the barbecue is at least 1m away from objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.

**HOSES & CYLINDERS** Hoses can split and connections can be damaged if exposed to harsh weather conditions when out of use. Check the hose to make sure it hasn't 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.

**GAS** Check the gas cylinder. A gas cylinder must not be refilled if it has not been tested for more than 10 years or if the cylinder has been damaged. Never use a barbecue on the wrong gas and don't use Autogas – it's different to LP and natural gas. It's not safe (or legal) to fill a barbecue cylinder at an Autogas dispenser.

Black and Stone Gas Safety Gauge, \$34.95, Black and Stone  
1300 089 001, [www.blackandstone.com.au](http://www.blackandstone.com.au).