



An Extended Guide · No. 1624

Connecting to a Home Propane Supply

A licensed-pro job —
here's what's involved

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

BillsHomeTech.com · (330) 200-8042 · Atwater, Ohio

Free & printable — share it with someone who needs it



Book a visit —
billshometech.com/book

! Read this first — carbon monoxide is the real danger

A running generator's exhaust contains carbon monoxide — an invisible, odorless gas that can kill in minutes. Never run a generator indoors, in a garage, in a shed, or on a porch, not even with the door open and a fan going. Run it outside only, well away from the house — the safety agencies say at least 20 feet — with the exhaust pointed away from every window, door, and vent. Put battery-backup carbon-monoxide alarms on each floor and outside the bedrooms. If an alarm sounds, or anyone feels dizzy, sick, or sleepy, get everyone into fresh air first and ask questions later. Connecting a generator to your home's propane supply means tying into a gas line that runs under real pressure, and a poor connection can let gas escape without warning — which is exactly why this job belongs to a licensed gas fitter, not a weekend project.

Let's talk about connecting to a home propane supply

A generator tied into your home's propane supply never needs a can refilled or a cylinder swapped — it just runs, for as long as the propane holds out. That convenience is real, but getting there means working with gas lines and pressure, so this is a job I help you plan, not one I do myself.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I'm not a licensed gas fitter, plumber, or electrician — I'm a tech helper. What I'm good at is helping you understand what a project like this involves, what questions to ask, and then lining you up with a trustworthy licensed pro to do the actual gas work.

This guide walks through what that pro handles, why it isn't a do-it-yourself task, and what to expect along the way — so you walk into it an informed homeowner, not a nervous one.

★ My role: plan it with you, then line up the right pro

I'll talk through what you're hoping for, help you think about sizing and placement in plain terms, and connect you with a licensed gas fitter I trust. I don't run or modify gas lines myself. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things about a home propane hookup, you'll ask the right questions.

- ❑ Connecting a generator to a home propane supply is a licensed gas fitter's job — not a do-it-yourself project.
- ❑ The pro sizes the gas line and regulator to match what you'll run, then installs and leak-tests it.
- ❑ This work is usually permitted and inspected, which protects you.
- ❑ I help you plan the project and line up a trustworthy licensed pro — I don't do the gas work myself.
- ❑ A fixed propane supply means long runtime without hauling fuel, and no stale-fuel worry.
- ❑ If you ever smell gas, leave first, then call — never troubleshoot a leak yourself.

✓ Bigger tanks mean a dealer relationship

A larger propane supply usually comes with an ongoing relationship with a propane dealer, whether the tank is leased or owned. Plan on having that conversation too, not just the installation itself.

Why this is a licensed pro's job

Gas work is one of the few things in this whole guide series where I'll tell you plainly: please don't do this yourself.

A propane line running from a tank to your house, or from your home's existing propane system out to a generator, carries fuel under real pressure. Getting the pipe size, the regulator, and the connections right takes training, and getting any of it wrong can mean a leak you might not notice until it's serious.

That's also why this work is usually permitted in most areas — a licensed gas fitter pulls the permit, does the work to code, and an inspector confirms it before it's put into everyday use. That process exists to protect you, not to slow you down.

! Pressure and leak risk are the whole reason

Propane lines are not like a garden hose or a light switch. A mistake in a gas line can be invisible until there's a leak. Leave the design, installation, and testing to a licensed pro every time.

Sizing the supply and the regulator

Sizing sounds technical, but the idea is simple: matching the line and the regulator to what you actually plan to run.

The gas line has to deliver enough propane, at the right pressure, to whatever you're powering — without starving it or overwhelming it. The regulator's job is to step the tank's pressure down to something safe and steady on the other end. A pro works out the right pipe size, the right regulator, and the right run for your specific setup.

This is also where your generator itself matters: if you haven't already, our guide on matching the right fuel to your generator is worth a look before this conversation, since not every generator is built to run on propane.

✓ Bring your generator's details to the conversation

Whatever documentation came with your generator helps the pro size things correctly the first time. If you're not sure what matters, I'm glad to help you sort that out before the pro's visit.

Running and leak-testing the line

Once the sizing is settled, the physical work begins — and it ends with a test, not a handshake.

The pro runs the pipe from the supply to the generator's connection point, securing and protecting it along the way. Every joint and connection is a place a leak could start, so this step is done carefully and to code.

- The line is routed and secured along a safe, code-compliant path.
- Connections are made and then checked, joint by joint.
- The whole line is leak-tested before it's ever put into service.
- Nothing is considered finished until it passes that test.

✓ Leak-testing is non-negotiable

A licensed pro will not call a propane line finished until it's been tested and shown not to leak. If anyone ever offers to skip that step, that's a sign to find a different pro.

Permits and inspections protect you

A permit can feel like paperwork, but it's really a second set of eyes on work that involves gas and pressure.

Most areas require a permit for this kind of gas work, and an inspection afterward to confirm it meets code. A licensed pro handles pulling the permit as part of the job — it's routine for them, even if it's unfamiliar to you.

If you'd like to understand more about how these rules work where you live, our guide on fuel storage and your local fire code walks through how to ask the right questions of your local authority.

✓ A permit is a feature, not a hassle

Skipping the permit doesn't just risk a fine — it means nobody with training has confirmed the work is safe. A permitted, inspected job is one you can trust.

My role: planning, not the gas work

I want to be completely upfront about where I fit into a project like this.

I'm a tech helper, not a licensed gas fitter. I don't run or modify propane lines, and I never present myself as someone who does. What I do is help you think through the project in plain English, understand what to ask for, and then line you up with a licensed pro I trust to do the actual gas work.

Think of me as the person who helps you walk into that conversation prepared — not overwhelmed, not guessing, just informed.

★ Let's plan it together

Tell me what you're hoping to power and how, and I'll help you think it through and connect you with a trustworthy licensed pro for the gas work itself. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

Why folks choose a fixed propane supply

There's a real reason this is a popular upgrade, and it isn't complicated.

A generator tied into a home propane supply doesn't need you to haul a can to the station or swap a cylinder mid-outage. As long as the supply holds out, it just keeps running. For a longer outage, that's a real comfort.

It also sidesteps a worry we cover elsewhere in this set: stale gasoline. Propane doesn't go stale sitting in a tank, so there's no rotation habit to keep up. See our guide on how much fuel to keep and how to rotate it for how that compares to gasoline.

✓ Long runtime is the headline benefit

If your biggest worry is a multi-day outage, a fixed propane supply is one of the more comfortable ways to plan for it — once it's installed by a licensed pro.

Leased tank or owned tank

Larger propane tanks are usually either leased from a dealer or owned outright, and each has its own trade-offs.

In general terms, a leased tank stays the property of the dealer who installed it, and that dealer typically handles its upkeep and is often the one who fills it. An owned tank belongs to you, which can mean more flexibility about who delivers your propane, along with more of the responsibility for its condition.

	Leased tank	Owned tank
Ownership	Belongs to the dealer	Belongs to you
Upkeep	Often the dealer's job	Generally your job
Fuel source	Usually that dealer	More flexibility

✓ **Your dealer can walk you through this**

Neither option is automatically better — it depends on your situation. A reputable propane dealer can explain what's available in your area and help you decide.

A bigger tank means a dealer relationship

Once you're running on a home propane supply, you're not just buying fuel — you're building an ongoing relationship.

A reputable local dealer becomes the person who keeps your tank filled, checks in on its condition, and can answer questions specific to your equipment and your area. It's worth choosing that dealer with the same care you'd choose any long-term service provider.

This matters even more in the cold: propane can struggle a bit as temperatures drop, which our guide on propane in the cold covers. Your dealer is a good resource for how that plays out with your specific tank and setup.

✓ Ask questions early

Don't wait until you're low on fuel to have your first real conversation with a dealer. Ask about delivery, monitoring, and what leasing versus owning looks like with them specifically.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

Whether a fixed propane supply makes sense, and how big a tank you'd consider, has a lot to do with where you live.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or a close-in suburb, lots are smaller and neighbors are closer, so tank placement and size are often shaped by local rules as much as by preference. Even so, a fixed supply can be a great fit for a shorter, more predictable outage.

- Smaller tanks are more common on tighter in-town lots, and placement may be limited by setback or HOA rules.
- A permit and inspection process is standard — your city or township can tell you what applies.
- City water usually keeps flowing in an outage, so the urgency is often more about comfort than survival.
- A licensed pro can tell you quickly whether your existing meter or a tank setup makes more sense for you.

If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country, there's often more room for a larger tank, and a fixed propane supply can matter even more — especially if you're on a well, where losing power means losing water too.

- More space typically allows for a larger tank and a more substantial reserve.
- A longer, more realistic outage makes the no-hauling, no-stale-fuel appeal of propane especially strong.
- Keep any tank and its gas line well clear of the barn, workshop, or welding area, and let your pro help you choose a sound spot.
- A rural dealer relationship often includes routine delivery, which is worth setting up before you need it.

★ Let's talk through what fits your property

Tell me about your lot, your outages, and what you're hoping to power, and I'll help you think it through before you call a pro. Call (330) 200-8042.

Getting ready for the pro's visit

A little preparation makes the first conversation with a licensed pro much more productive.

- Know roughly what you want to power and for how long, even if it's a rough idea.
- Have your generator's information handy, if you already own one.
- Think about where a tank could reasonably go, keeping distance from the house, windows, and any ignition source in mind — the pro will confirm the specifics.
- Write down your questions ahead of time so you don't forget them in the moment.

You don't need to become an expert before that first visit. The pro's job is to guide you through the technical decisions — your job is just to be clear about what you're hoping to achieve.

★ I'm glad to help you prepare

If you'd like to think it through with someone first, that's exactly the kind of conversation I'm happy to have before you bring in a pro. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

What happens during the install, in plain terms

Every project is a little different, but the shape of it is usually similar.

- The pro assesses your home, your generator or appliance, and the supply itself.
- They determine the line size, the regulator, and the safest path for the run.
- The line is installed and secured, then leak-tested before anything is connected to it.
- The finished work is inspected, and you get to see it running safely for the first time.

How long this takes depends on your specific setup, so that's a fair question to ask your pro directly rather than guess at.

✓ Ask for a walkthrough

Most pros are glad to walk you through what they did and point out the shutoff valve and other basics. Ask — it's worth understanding your own system.

Testing and sign-off: the finish line

The job isn't done until it's been tested and, usually, inspected.

Before anything runs off the new line, a licensed pro tests it for leaks. Depending on where you live, an inspector may also review the work against code before it's approved for use. This two-layer check is exactly why the process takes a little longer than a shortcut would — and exactly why it's worth it.

Once it's signed off, ask for any paperwork or documentation for your records. It's helpful to have on hand if you ever have questions later, sell the home, or bring in a different pro for service.

✓ Keep the paperwork

File the permit, inspection, and any dealer paperwork with your other home records. Future you — or whoever services this next — will be glad it's there.

Living with a fixed propane supply

Once it's installed, day-to-day life with a fixed supply is refreshingly low-maintenance.

You're not hauling cans or swapping cylinders. Mostly, living with it well means keeping an eye on the tank's general level so you can arrange a refill with your dealer before you're running low, and staying alert to the smell of propane, which is the main warning sign of a problem.

Beyond that, most of the ongoing care — the tank itself, the regulator, recertification questions — belongs to your dealer or pro relationship, not to a do-it-yourself checklist.

! If you ever smell gas, take it seriously

A propane leak has a distinctive rotten-egg smell added specifically so it's noticeable. If you ever smell it, leave the area and call from a safe distance — our gas-leak guide walks through exactly what to do.

Common mistakes homeowners make

A few avoidable habits cause most of the trouble I hear about with propane hookups.

- **Trying to save money with an unlicensed installer** — gas work is the wrong place to cut corners.
- **Skipping the permit**, which means nobody with training confirmed the work is safe.
- **Guessing at sizing** instead of telling the pro exactly what you plan to run.
- **Ignoring a faint gas smell** instead of treating it as the warning it is.
- **Not asking questions** about leased versus owned tanks before signing anything.

! One of these carries real risk

Most of these mistakes cost you money or a headache. Working around a licensed pro for gas work, or ignoring a smell of gas, can cost far more than that.

Questions worth asking

Whether you're talking to a gas fitter, a propane dealer, or me, these get you real answers.

Q: Is my generator even able to run on propane?

Not every generator is. Check your generator's documentation, or see our guide on matching the right fuel to your generator, before you plan a hookup around it.

Q: Will this work need a permit where I live?

Most areas require one for this kind of gas work, and a licensed pro will typically handle pulling it as part of the job. Ask them directly to confirm.

Q: Should I lease or own my tank?

That depends on your situation and what local dealers offer. Ask a reputable propane dealer to walk you through what leasing versus owning looks like with them.

Q: What do I do if I smell gas after the work is done?

Leave the area right away, avoid anything that could spark, and call from a safe distance — see our gas-leak guide for the full steps.

✓ There's no silly question

A gas hookup involves real technical decisions, and asking questions is exactly how you make a good one. Ask until you're confident.

If you ever smell gas

This is worth its own page, because it's the single most important thing to know once you have a propane supply at your house.

Propane has a distinctive smell added to it specifically so a leak is noticeable. If you ever smell it near your tank, your line, or your generator, don't investigate, don't flip switches, and don't light anything.

! Leave first, then call

Get everyone out and away from the area, and only once you're at a safe distance, call your propane dealer, 911, or both. Don't go back in until you're told it's safe. Our gas-leak guide covers this in full, including other warning signs to watch for.

This isn't meant to alarm you — a well-installed, leak-tested, permitted system is a safe system. It's simply the one response worth knowing by heart.

Making sure this matches your generator

A propane hookup only helps if your generator can actually use it.

Some generators run on gasoline only, some are built for propane or natural gas, and some dual-fuel or tri-fuel models can use more than one. Before you plan a fixed propane hookup around your generator, confirm it's actually compatible — our guide on matching the right fuel to your generator walks through how to check.

If you're choosing a generator with this kind of hookup already in mind, mention that to whoever you buy from, and to the pro doing the gas work, so everything is sized correctly from the start.

✓ Check before you commit

It's much easier to confirm compatibility before the gas line is run than to discover a mismatch afterward. When in doubt, ask.

Common Questions

The home-propane-hookup questions I hear most often, answered plainly.

Q: Can I run a gas line to my generator myself?

No — this is licensed gas fitter work, done under permit in most areas. I help you plan the project, but I don't do the gas work myself, and neither should you.

Q: What does 'sizing' the supply actually mean?

It means matching the pipe size and regulator to what you'll actually run, so the generator gets enough propane at a safe, steady pressure. A pro figures this out for your specific setup.

Q: Do I need a big tank for this to work?

Not necessarily — tank size depends on what you're running and how often you want to schedule deliveries. Your dealer and pro can help you land on a sensible size.

Q: What's the benefit over just using propane cylinders?

A fixed supply means no hauling or swapping cylinders and generally longer runtime between refills. Our propane cylinder and propane tanks guides cover the cylinder side if you're weighing both.

★ Still have a question on your mind?

That's what I'm here for. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and I'll give you a plain, honest answer, and help you think through the project before you call a pro.

How this fits with the rest

A home propane hookup is one piece of a bigger fuel picture — here's how it connects.

This guide focused on what's involved in connecting to a home propane supply and why it's a licensed pro's job. For the tank side of propane, see our propane cylinder storage guide and our propane tanks guide. If natural gas is available where you live, our natural gas basics guide covers how that option compares.

And whichever fuel feeds your setup, our carbon monoxide guide and our gas-leak guide are worth keeping close — the safety habits they cover matter just as much with a fixed supply as with any can or cylinder.

★ One call covers all of it

You don't have to sort out which guide answers which question. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, describe what you're hoping to do, and I'll help you think it through and point you to the right pro.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made connecting to a home propane supply feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do the licensed electrical or gas work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

A Propane Hookup: Pro vs. DIY

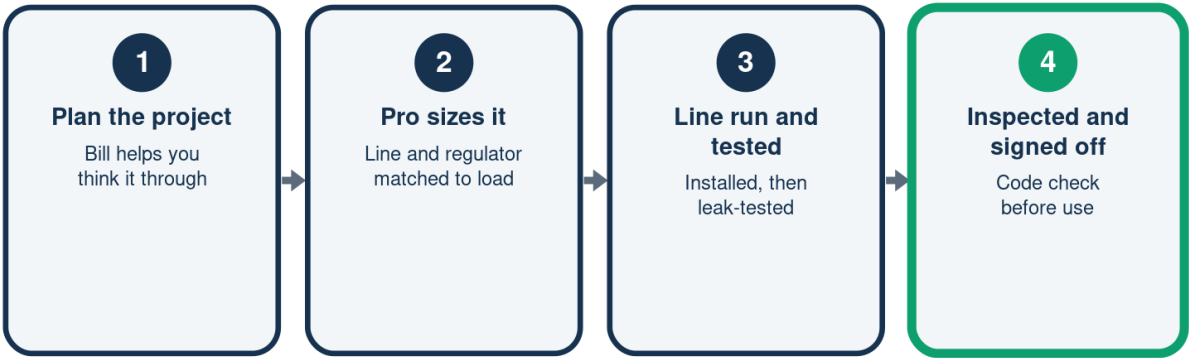
Why this connection is not a do-it-yourself job

	Licensed pro	DIY attempt
Sizing the line	Matched, tested	Guesswork
Leak testing	Done before use	Often skipped
Permit/inspection	Code-compliant	Unpermitted
Risk	Managed	Real leak risk

Gas lines run under real pressure -- this is a licensed gas fitter's job.

Getting Connected to a Home Propane Supply

How the project comes together, step by step



A licensed pro handles every step that touches the gas line.

Leased Tank vs. Owned Tank

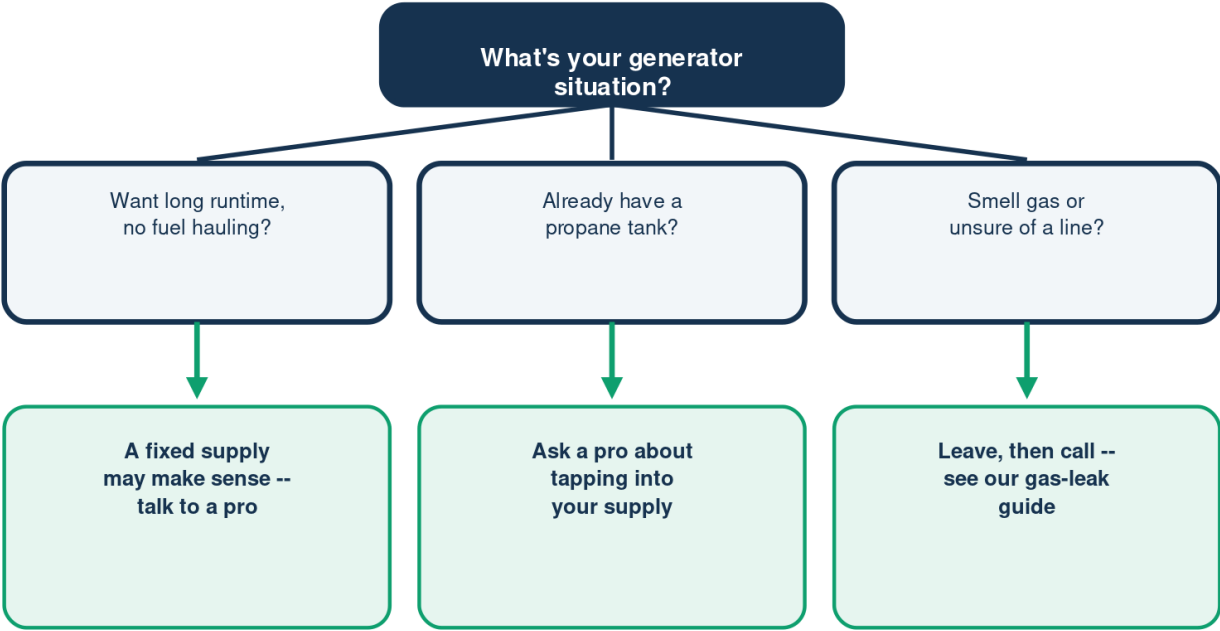
Two common paths -- ask your dealer which fits

	Leased tank	Owned tank
Who owns it	The dealer	You
Who maintains it	Dealer, typically	Your responsibility
Fuel source	Usually that dealer	More flexibility
Best for	Simplicity	Flexibility

Ask your propane dealer which fits your situation.

Is a Home Propane Hookup Right for You?

A quick gut-check before you call a pro



Never test a suspected leak yourself -- leave first, then call.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will
make it right -- or refund it. No awkwardness,
no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



Book a visit —
billshometech.com/book

Use of these guides is subject to our Terms of Use (billshometech.com/terms-of-use).

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

For general information only — not professional advice. Use at your own risk. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech