

The "FixIt" Manual

GAS GRILL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

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Chapter 6 - LP Parts and Gas Fittings

"Know thy Plumbing Terms"

LP Hose Regulator

Remember that plumbing terms rarely fit what you measure on the fittings. They are usually based on the ID of the pipe for which they were originally made. I have, many times, not found any direct connection between the name (or the measurement stated) and the actual fitting. These terms are what they are called. Go to the plumbing section of the hardware store with the old fittings and compare to what they have. Then you will know the correct names. Generally you have NPT (national pipe thread, also called standard pipe thread), flared fittings and compression fittings. An occasional metric fitting might show up, but I haven't found them. You are required to know your plumbing terms. *YOU WILL BE TESTED IN THE GRILL!!*

Dealing with a faulty LP regulator on your gas grill could require replacing the entire LP regulator hose. It is usually easier and faster to try and replace the hose regulator assembly than to order a new regulator. Many local hardware stores and Home Depot - Lowe's stores have replacement regulator hose in the gas grill section. These will easily change out with the old one on your grill. These hose regulators are often priced in the \$25-35 range. It is possible to change the assembly out in a few hours and be on your way to cooking dinner. There are three things to know and compare in order to do this... assuming you have determined that the regulator is the problem.

1. The regulator connection to the LP tank is usually a QCC connector with a black plastic knob that is meant to be tightened by hand. The older style POL connectors required a wrench and were tightened in a counter-clockwise motion.
2. The hose connection to the grill is, in most cases, a 3/8 female flared fitting. Occasionally a smaller flared fitting is found. Some older grills, like the old style Ducane, use a NPT-National Pipe Thread female hose connector. Since most hoses found at Home Depot - Lowe's are 3/8 flared; you will have to find a flared to NPT fitting to make this connection. You can also try calling the factory customer service. Another way the hoses are attached to the grill is with a "crimped" on clamp.
3. The length of the hose is hopefully the last issue. If you cannot find a long enough hose you can probably find a union and a gas appliance connector in the plumbing section of the hardware store. A union is a gas fitting that is used to connect the ends of 2 gas lines. You may have a grill with a side burner and a two hose connection to the grill. These may be found at local stores, too. Our LP hose-regulators are found at: www.clagrill.com/allgrillparts/all-hoses-regulators.htm.

All of our hose-regulators have 3/8 female flared connectors.





Replacing the LP Hose Regulator

Buying an "aftermarket" LP hose-regulator can sometimes end up in failure if the grill connection side is not a match for the gas connection on the hose. Another problem may occur if the replacement hose is too short to connect the LP tank and the grill.

With most of the "aftermarket" LP hose-regulators, the gas connection to the grill is a 3/8" OD (outside diameter) female flared connector. It is possible to purchase a gas appliance connector in most hardware stores. These can be found in the gas fitting section of the store with plumbing parts. You will need a 3/8 flared union to connect the 2 hoses. There are 2 different 3/8 flared fittings so be sure to try the LP hose, the union and the gas appliance connector together before purchasing.

You will need some open end wrenches or 2 pairs of Channel Locks to secure the connection. Since they are flared fittings you don't need to use Teflon tape or pipe dope. Be sure to start the threads without crossing and then tighten. After securing the hose to the grill, connect to the tank and open the gas valve. Use soapy water to check all the fittings for leaks before lighting the grill. **FAILURE TO SECURE GAS CONNECTIONS COULD RESULT IN A FIRE AND INJURY. IF YOU'RE NOT CERTAIN ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, CONTACT A QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN.**