

How To Guide

2016 RS Adventurous



HOW TO: Propane System

Your vehicle is equipped with a propane system which, when properly handled and maintained, will provide trouble and worry free operation of your propane fueled appliances.

Regulatory Concerns

Many jurisdictions place restrictions on propane on highways, in tunnels, on ferries, and on bridges. Please follow all local restrictions in all the jurisdictions along your trip. Some bridges/tunnels/ferries require you to have your main shutoff valve closed. This valve must be closed whenever the vehicle is in motion in any case, not just in certain areas. Other bridges/tunnels/ferries ban vehicles with propane tanks entirely. Plan ahead and take an alternate route if passing through areas where vehicles with propane are prohibited.

Propane Tank Location

The propane tank is located behind the front utility access door along the bottom driver's side of the vehicle. To access the tank for filling and to turn the manual tank shutoff valve off and on, pull the door up and secure it with the rotating tab.

Main Shutoff valve



Propane tank



Support for side compartment cover



Main valve

✗ You must close the tank shutoff valve when the vehicle is not in daily use. Further, you must close the shutoff valve when the vehicle is traveling. Never operate any propane appliance while the vehicle is in motion.

The propane shutoff valve has arrows on it to tell you which way to turn it - clockwise is closed and counterclockwise is open.

If you close the main valve for an extended period of time it is possible for the distribution lines to fill with air. It may take a while for propane to fill the lines again. The fridge and water heater handle this automatically; for the stove you can hear the difference between propane and air.

BBQ pigtail



High pressure BBQ pigtail, in stowed position in front of passenger rear tire



Propane pigtail, removed from retaining enclosure



With yellow dustcap removed and valve in open position

The propane system has a high-pressure auxiliary BBQ takeoff. Locate the hose by reaching under the edge of the Roadtrek about halfway between the rear passenger tire opening and the side door. Pull the hose toward the back of the Roadtrek to release it from the channel it is stowed in. The hose has a yellow dustcap, and an integral cutoff valve which is closed when the brass handle is across the line, and open when the handle is parallel to the line. This takeoff provides 15PSI regulated propane to appliances that have their own regulators or are built to use high-pressure propane. Many grills in the US are low pressure (.5 PSI) and cannot use this connection without an additional regulator. The auxiliary BBQ male connector is Cast Products part # 829000 or 829120. The hose assembly in varying lengths is available as MB Sturgis part no. 100476.



Always store the hose back in the channel it was in when you removed it - do not let it dangle loose beneath the Roadtrek while driving.

Propane Tank Filling



Do not attempt to fill the tank unless you have had appropriate training. Reading this manual does not constitute sufficient training to safely fill propane. If you overfill the tank, propane will vent uncontrollably out of the relief valve.

To fill the tank, first turn off all propane appliances, then turn off the tank shutoff valve.

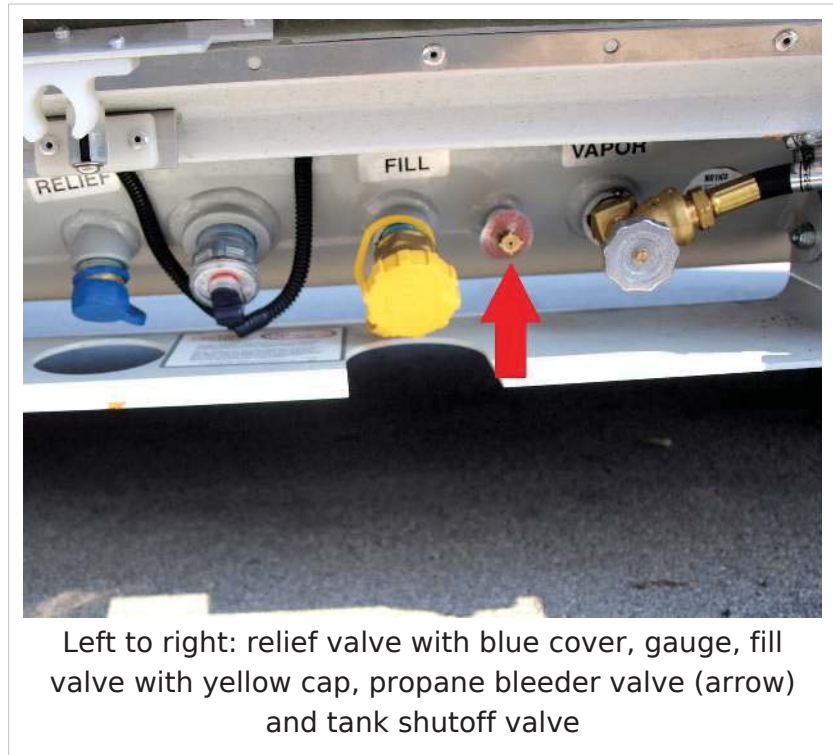
We recommend that you find a qualified LPG technician to fill the tank. The following is an outline of the process to help you understand and not intended to be complete, nor to substitute for formal training or instruction.

Attach the fill hose to the fill valve, open the bleeder valve slightly, and fill the tank to 80% capacity. The stop-fill valve should automatically stop the filling process. You may also see liquid propane spit out of the bleeder valve as the tank reaches the 80% fill level. Stop filling immediately and close the bleeder valve.

Under no circumstances should anyone fill the tank to more than 80% capacity; doing so can cause liquid propane to flow into the regulators. If this happens the regulators will have to be replaced. In warmer weather overfilled tanks will exceed the pressure the relief valve is set for, and a jet of (hopefully unignited) propane will shoot out of the valve. If this happens, immediately leave the area until the tank has stopped venting and you can no longer smell propane.

We recommend that you use only propane from certified LPG retailers.

The relief valve with the blue plastic cover will automatically vent propane if the tank is overfilled or overheats. This is not a user-serviceable item; never attempt to remove the cover, test, or otherwise interfere with the operation of this valve.



Left to right: relief valve with blue cover, gauge, fill valve with yellow cap, propane bleeder valve (arrow) and tank shutoff valve

Propane Level Gauge Sender

The propane tank has a level indicator with a remote sender to the Monitor Panel. The black wire you see of this gauge connects to the monitor panel, and allows you to check your propane level while inside the Roadtrek.

Both the three-light system on the monitor panel and the gauge on the tank will give you a rough idea of your propane level; you will get a more accurate indication when you fill up. Note the amount it takes to fill your tank. The 16 gallon tank in your Roadtrek will hold 12.8 gallons / 48 liters when completely empty and filled to the correct 80% full level. Subtract the amount you buy from this number, and you'll know how much was in the tank when you filled it. You may find that the gauge will read one light when you still have a considerable reserve, or you may find that empty means empty, and you'd be wise to refill as soon as it goes down to one light. It depends on the characteristics of your individual propane system.

Slam shut valve

The propane system is equipped with a slam-shut valve. If this valve detects a sudden increase in flow (as if from a ruptured line) or a shock (as if from an accident) the valve will shut down the propane system. If you detect no propane flow, and you have checked that you have propane in the tank, shut off all appliances, shut off the main valve, and wait 10 minutes.

Slowly turn on the propane, turning the main valve 1/4 turn a minute until the valve is open. Check for propane smell as you turn on the valve.

Once the valve is open, turn on the stove and try to light it. If air entered the line, it may take a short time to purge the air out of the line.

If you still have no propane at the stove, and you detect no propane smell, have a qualified technician check the system.

About Propane

Propane fuel is colourless, heavier than air and smells like garlic or rotten eggs. The odor is added by the distributor so propane may smell differently as you travel and purchase propane from various distributors. Being heavier than air it will collect in low spots and along the floor of your vehicle.

If you smell propane or your propane detector sounds, immediately get all occupants out of the vehicle and turn the manual shutoff valve off. Wait for the propane to dissipate. Once the smell is gone, take the vehicle to a qualified repair facility to find and fix the problem before using the propane system again. If closing the manual shutoff valve does not stop the propane leak and you still smell propane, do not attempt to start, drive, occupy or otherwise use the vehicle in the presence of a propane smell.



Propane tanks must not be placed or stored inside your vehicle. Propane tanks are equipped with safety devices which relieve excessive pressure by discharging gas to the atmosphere. The Roadtrek's propane tank is mounted outside the vehicle and will vent propane where it can dissipate; any tank inside the vehicle will vent into the passenger compartment, creating an explosive propane-air mixture inside the enclosed space, which also contains many potential sources of ignition.



To reduce the danger of fire or explosion do not store gasoline or other flammable liquids inside your vehicle. In a moving vehicle, containers get tipped over or jostled and leak, and flammable vapors will create an explosive air-vapor mixture inside your passenger compartment, which also contains many potential sources of ignition.



Purchase propane from a reputable propane facility. Contaminated propane is a common cause of system failure.



The auxiliary BBQ outlet is regulated to 15 P.S.I. If you are using an external grill with this hookup, ensure that the appliance is rated for that pressure or has its own regulator for lower pressure.