



BERKSHIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE SHEET

Use of flexible rubber pipe for gas bottle connection use

A number of incidents arising from the deterioration of the rubber hoses used to connect various types of fuel gas bottles/cylinders are reported each year, leading to leakage and subsequent ignition of the escaping gas. Some of these incidents result in serious burns.

Rubber hoses used within the gas bottle industry are either black or orange in colour, and both will carry a date of manufacture.

Black hoses are generally suitable for low usage applications, in interior (indoor) applications. Orange hoses have a built in protection from the effects of ultra-violet light (sunlight), and are more suited to outdoor usage (camping, for example). In particular, orange tubing is designed to handle higher pressures than black tubing. Both types in use however, suffer from degradation by the action of gas passing through them, and this is reason why the tubing is date marked.

In general, all hoses should be checked before use. Inspect for evidence of deformation (bulging), and hairline cracks (especially at joints, and at points where hose clips are placed).

Black hoses used for *indoor* use, should be changed within five years of the date printed on the hose material. Where used for outdoor use, they should be changed within two years. Orange hoses may be used in indoor and outdoor applications for up to five years from the manufacturers date, always provided, for either hose type, that there are no signs of deterioration before this time.

A further, most important safety point - each end **MUST** be securely fixed to the bottle or appliance with a correctly fitted jubilee clip

And finally, this advice *does not* replace the advice given by your gas or appliance supplier. If there is any doubt regarding gas safety, reference must be made to your supplier's written information, or their helpline.