

Bitumen pourers used for transporting and pouring hot bitumen should be fitted with lids as a means of maintaining the temperature of the bitumen and as an aid to safety.

FUEL

Bottled liquid gas is generally used for heating the bitumen. Bottled gas is potentially dangerous and it should always be handled with care. The specific safety regulations which apply to the storage, handling and use of bottled gas should be observed (see section on liquid petroleum gases).

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishing equipment, suitable for use on bitumen fires, should always be provided. See also 'Bitumen boilers in construction - Fire hazards - published by The Health & Safety Executive'.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Hot bitumen and gas burners can cause severe burns. Operatives should be instructed in their correct use and protective clothing, including gloves and footwear should be used.

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

Suitable first aid equipment should always be available on all roofing sites.

Liquid Petroleum Gases

- Operatives should be trained and certificated in the use of diesel and propane burners.
- Cylinders not in use should be stored in a lockable compound at least 6m from equipment.
- Cylinders should be set up at least 3m away from flame or heat. Do not use more cylinders than necessary.
- Gas cylinders should never be stored on their sides.
- Only armoured hose, properly connected with appropriate jubilee clips or similar, as supplied by manufacturers, should be used on all equipment.
- Pressure regulators should be fitted to all gas bottles.
- Leads, hoses and jets should be regularly checked and maintenance completed in order to ensure correct functioning.
- Clips and union joints should be tightened by the use of the correct tools.

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- Manufacturer's recommended gas pressure should be observed.
- Naked flames should never be used when testing for gas leaks. Soapy water or saliva should be used.
- Mixers, cauldrons and boilers should never be left unattended.
- All gas appliances should be turned off at least 20 minutes before leaving site.

FURTHER REFERENCES

Information Sheet No. 18

Code of practice for safe handling of hot bitumen for roofing purposes –published by The Flat Roofing Contractors Advisory Board. Code of Practice No. 4 Recommendations for the safe and satisfactory operation of bitumen boilers and asphalt cauldrons/mixers and hand tools operating on commercial propane – published by UKLPG.

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Bitumen boilers in construction - Fire hazards - published by The Health & Safety Executive.

Guidance Note CS6

The storage and use of LPG on construction sites - published by The Health & Safety Executive.

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