California To Ban Sale, Use of Single-Use Propane Cylinders

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California has become the first state to ban the sale of single-use propane cylinders, according to a report at ExpeditionPortal.com.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 1280 into law, which mandates that all one-pound propane canisters sold in California must be refillable or reusable beginning January 1, 2028. The bill, introduced by Senator John Laird of Santa Cruz, is designed to promote sustainable outdoor recreation and alleviate the environmental impact caused by disposable propane canisters. So, what does that mean for us overlanders? Essentially, after the initial purchase of an appropriate cylinder and adapter, this law might actually save us money.

The ubiquitous Coleman one-pound (16-ounce) All-Purpose Propane cylinder (and others like it) is not designed to be refillable and may require an upgrade if Coleman intends to continue to sell this cylinder in California. These canisters are intended for single use and disposal according to local recycling or hazardous waste guidelines. Some aftermarket refill kits allow refilling these cylinders, but refilling non-refillable containers can be dangerous and may void warranties or violate regulations.

The solution is a refillable cylinder such as the Flame King refillable one-pound propane tanks (\$30 each) certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). They are specifically designed for safe refilling and comply with DOT-39 specifications for refillable propane cylinders. This certification ensures they meet safety standards for transport, refilling, and repeated use, making them a safer alternative to disposable one-pound cylinders. The Flame King Eco-Friendly one-pound Refillable Reusable Propane Cylinder + Refill Kit is a mere \$65 and includes a one-pound cylinder, cylinder cap, 2mm (5/64") Allen key, refill adapter, and refill stand. You will need to have your own large gas cylinder to refill the Flame King cylinders, but it won't be long before campers save a fair amount of camping money if they use the one-pound cylinders regularly.