



SUFFOLK CENTRE

TIPS AND IDEAS



(Researched and written by Chris Sanderson)

Gas leaks



A number of reports of gas bottles prematurely emptying due to leaks around the regulator has prompted this tip. A simple but effective leak detector is to mix up a solution of half water and half washing up liquid or soap solution and to brush this around the relevant gas connection point. Better and more convenient still is to use a hand sprayer bottle filled with the soap solution.

Any leaks will quickly appear as bubbles that would probably get missed using a "sniff test". Wipe surplus solution dry after the test to prevent any corrosion problems. Propane bottles using 37mbar regulators appear the worst offenders due to the metal-to-metal seal used between bottle and regulator. Caravans produced 2004 onwards, which now use the new 30mbar standard have potentially a greater leak opportunity due to the fact that very much higher unregulated full gas bottle pressure is presented to the rubber hose connecting the bottle to the bulk head mounted regulator.