CALGARY PLUMBING PRO

Gas Lines & Appliances

Gas lines for barbecues, ranges, dryers and fireplaces, gas appliance hookups, gas permits and who is allowed to do gas work in Alberta

4 Expert Answers from Plumbing IQ

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Q1

Propane BBQ to natural gas conversion in Calgary, who does it?

Converting a propane barbecue to natural gas in Calgary is gas work, which means it must be done by a **certified gasfitter** holding an Alberta journeyperson certificate (Class A or Class B), or a registered apprentice working under one. This is a compulsory certification trade under Alberta's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act, so hiring someone who is not certified is not a legal option for paid work.

What the job actually involves

A natural gas conversion is more than swapping a fitting. The gasfitter checks whether your existing gas line has enough capacity to supply the barbecue, runs a dedicated line to the patio or deck location, installs a quick-disconnect fitting, and replaces the propane orifices and regulator with natural gas components sized to the manufacturer's specifications. The barbecue itself must be rated for natural gas conversion; not every propane unit can be converted, so check the barbecue's manual and warranty terms before buying a kit.

A gas permit from the City of Calgary is required for this work. In Calgary, a homeowner cannot obtain a gas permit unless they are a certified journeyman gasfitter working on their own single-family home. For everyone else, the gasfitter pulls the permit, and the City's inspector checks the installation.

No gas permit means no legal installation, and an uninspected gas line at a barbecue is a real fire and carbon monoxide risk.

Pricing is genuinely variable here. The cost depends on how far the new line runs from the nearest gas supply point, whether the run goes through finished walls or under a deck, the fittings and quick-disconnect hardware, and the permit. Because this job has no reliable published range, the right approach is to get an itemized written quote that breaks out labour, materials, the permit fee, and any patching or finishing work separately.

Before you hire, ask to see the gasfitter's Alberta trade certificate, confirm the contractor holds an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if they take any deposit before completing the work, and request a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing.

A proper written quote for this job should include: a fixed price or the hourly rate and estimated hours, the quick-disconnect fitting and conversion kit by type, the gas permit and inspection, the start date, and the warranty on labour and parts. Get the warranty terms in writing rather than relying on a verbal assurance.

Q2

Do I need a gasfitter to hook up a new gas stove in Calgary?

Swapping a gas stove in Calgary sits in a grey zone that trips up a lot of homeowners, so here is the straight answer: **if the gas line and its fittings are not changing, the appliance swap itself may not require a gas permit under the Alberta Permit Regulation**, but the moment anything upstream of the stove's shut-off valve is touched, a gas permit is required and only a certified gasfitter can do that work.

What the rules actually say

The Alberta Permit Regulation exempts replacing a range in a single-family home from a gas permit when no design change is needed to the gas piping or venting. In plain terms: if a certified gasfitter originally ran a properly sized gas line with a shut-off valve to the stove location, and the new stove simply connects to that existing line with a flexible appliance connector, the permit exemption can apply.

The catch is that in Calgary, **a homeowner cannot obtain a gas permit under any circumstances unless they hold an Alberta journeyman gasfitter certificate**. That rule is stricter than the province's general trade exemption, which lets an owner do work on their own property for personal use. For gas in Calgary, the City's permit rules close that door. So if a permit is needed for this job, a certified gasfitter must pull it and do the work.

Who is certified for this work? Under Alberta's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act, Gasfitter is a compulsory certification trade. Anyone doing gas work for pay must be a certified journeyperson gasfitter or a registered apprentice working under one. A Gasfitter Class B certificate covers residential appliances like stoves and water heaters up to 400,000 BTU, which covers every residential range.

What actually triggers the permit? Moving the shut-off valve, extending or re-routing the gas line, changing the pipe size, or adding a new branch all require a gas permit and a certified gasfitter. If the stove is going into a spot where there was previously an electric range and no gas line exists, that is a full gas line installation and definitely needs a permit and a gasfitter.

Leave the gas connection to the gasfitter. Disconnecting and reconnecting the appliance, testing for leaks and commissioning the stove is gas work, and it is where a certified gasfitter protects you.

What to ask the gasfitter before they start: confirm whether a gas permit is needed for this specific job given the existing line configuration, and if so, ask them to name the permit number before work begins. If no permit is required, ask them to document in writing why the exemption applies. Either way, ask whether the City of Calgary will inspect the connection and what that inspection covers.

Q3

Carbon monoxide alarm went off near my Calgary water heater, what now?

Get everyone out of the house right now, including pets, and call emergency services from outside. Do not stop to look for the leak, do not turn anything on or off, do not go back inside until emergency services tell you it is safe. Carbon monoxide is colourless and odourless, and exposure can incapacitate quickly.

Once the building is cleared

When emergency responders have checked the space and cleared you to re-enter, do not simply reset the alarm and carry on. A CO alarm near a water heater is a serious signal that the appliance may be producing or venting combustion gases into the living space rather than exhausting them safely outdoors.

Do not operate the water heater again until a certified gasfitter has inspected it. In Alberta, gasfitting is a compulsory certification trade under the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act. The person who inspects and works on the appliance must be a certified journeyperson gasfitter or a registered apprentice working under one. Ask to see the certificate before work begins.

Common things a gasfitter checks in this situation: the flue or vent pipe for blockages, disconnection, corrosion or back-drafting; the burner and heat exchanger for cracks or incomplete combustion; and the combustion air supply to the appliance. The gasfitter designs any repair to CSA B149.1, the natural gas and propane installation code in force in Alberta since March 1, 2026, and the City of Calgary's inspector verifies the work.

Permits: any repair that alters the gas piping or venting on a water heater requires a gas permit from the City of Calgary. In Calgary, a homeowner cannot obtain a gas permit unless they are a certified journeyman gasfitter themselves; gas work here is for a certified gasfitter pulling the permit. A like-for-like appliance swap with no change to the gas line upstream of the shut-off valve and no change to the venting does not require a permit, but if the gasfitter finds the venting needs to change, a permit is required before that work starts.

Before the gasfitter begins, ask for a WCB-Alberta clearance letter confirming their account is in good standing, and check that any contractor taking a deposit before completing the work holds an Alberta prepaid contracting licence through Service Alberta. Get the scope, price and warranty terms in writing before signing anything.

If the water heater needs replacing, a standard 50-gallon gas tank supplied and installed typically runs $1,500 to $3,500 in Calgary; a tankless unit installed runs $2,200 to $5,000, plus $400 to $1,500 if the gas line needs upgrading. Those are typical Calgary figures for 2025-2026 and shift with equipment choice, access and what the gasfitter finds with the venting.

When you compare quotes, ask each gasfitter to spell out exactly what venting work is included, because that is where the price difference between two otherwise similar quotes is most likely to be hiding.

Q4

Can a gas pipe run through a Calgary garage ceiling?

A gas line can run through a garage ceiling in Calgary when it is installed to CSA B149.1:25, the natural gas and propane installation code in force in Alberta since March 1, 2026, and it needs a gas permit from the City of Calgary before work starts.

What the code cares about in a garage

The gasfitter designs the run to the code and the City's inspector checks it. The practical questions are how the pipe is supported and kept clear of vehicles and stored items, how it passes through walls and the ceiling, and, in an attached garage, how any opening between the garage and the house is sealed afterward. Ask the gasfitter to walk you through each of those before work starts.

A homeowner in Calgary cannot pull a gas permit. The City of Calgary's rule is that a homeowner gas permit is available only to a homeowner who is also an Alberta-certified journeyman gasfitter working on their own single-family home. For everyone else, the gasfitter you hire takes out the permit. The work must be done by a certified gasfitter (Class B covers residential appliances up to 400,000 BTU) or a registered apprentice working under one; this is a compulsory certification trade under Alberta's Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act.

Starting work before the permit is issued doubles the permit fee, and a re-inspection costs $327, so the sequence matters: permit first, then work, then inspection.

What a proper quote for this job should include:

Ask for a fixed price or a clear hourly rate with the call-out fee stated, the pipe material and diameter, all fittings and hangers, any fire-stop materials for penetrations, the gas permit and inspection fee, and the gasfitter's trade certificate number. If the ceiling drywall has to be opened and patched, that scope should be spelled out, either included or explicitly excluded with a referral to a drywaller.

Before signing, check the gasfitter's Alberta trade certificate, confirm the contractor holds an Alberta prepaid contracting licence if you are paying any deposit before the work is complete (Service Alberta issues these), and ask for a WCB-Alberta clearance letter.

When you have two quotes in front of you, line up the pipe run length, the permit, fire-stopping and patching side by side before comparing the totals, because a lower number that excludes the permit or ceiling repair can easily end up costing more.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Calgary Plumbing Pro. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority (the City of Calgary or your own

municipality) before starting any plumbing or gas project. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **calgaryplumbingpro.com** for the latest answers.