

Virginia Propane Research & Education Foundation

2026 SAFE APPLIANCE INSTALLATION REBATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Rebates are given on a first come, first served basis. Up to 30 pre-approval numbers can be secured at a time which will be released if unused after 60 days

I. Purpose

The Virginia Propane Research and Education Foundation's (VPREF) rebate program promotes safe, professional installation of propane appliances to increase use of propane as a year-round energy source that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

VPREF's safe appliance installation rebate program will offer rebates based upon installation of propane-fueled appliances:

- \$100 – for propane clothes dryer or propane cooktop range
- \$400 – for vented propane heater and wall furnace
- \$400 – for propane water heater, gas pack (must be at least 40,000btu and 90+% efficient. For hybrid heating systems – dual fuel system must include propane)
- \$400 – propane-fueled residential generator (7kW-60kW)
- \$400 – heat pump helper

For installations in existing homes, the new propane appliances must replace existing electric or natural gas appliances. Both tank style and tankless water heaters are eligible. **A rebate application must be submitted to Virginia Propane Research and Education Foundation within 30 days of the final safety inspection, following installation of the appliance. Checks are sent directly to the homeowner or builder; please allow up 4-6 weeks for processing.**

II. Availability of Funds

This program is funded through assessments paid by propane marketers. Prior to the start of each fiscal year, VPREF will determine a budget for the program. The program funds are awarded on a first-come basis.

Available funds in the safe appliance installation rebate program will be reported on a bimonthly basis in our Newsletter - *Degree Days*. Participating dealers should contact VPREF to determine the adequacy of funding prior to implementing widespread outreach campaigns to ensure that your customer's rebate will be funded.

Installation and inspection of these units must be after January 1, 2026 and before December 31, 2026.

III. Eligibility

Marketers: Only Virginia propane marketers are eligible to participate. The program is available to VAPGA members and non-members alike. The program is designed for propane marketers and is not available to the general public except through participating marketers. The marketer is responsible for documenting that an eligible installation has been performed, that all appliances have been correctly identified, and that a safety inspection has been completed. Marketers are responsible for submitting the completed rebate application to VPREF for consideration, although the rebate check will be issued and mailed directly to the consumer, or builder in the case of spec homes.

Consumers: Consumers may only receive a rebate through a participating marketer and must agree to the regulations and conditions on the application form, including allowing an inspection of the installation and agreeing not to modify or move the installation for at least one year following the installation.

IV. Eligible Installations

- \$100 for propane clothes dryer or propane cooktop range
- \$400 for vented propane heater and wall furnace
- \$400 for propane water heater, gas pack (must be at least 40,000btu and 90+% efficient. For hybrid heating systems – dual fuel system must include propane)
- \$400 – propane-fueled residential generator (7kW-60kW)
- \$400 – heat pump helper

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The program authorizes a rebate for water heaters and vented/direct vented whole house heating systems (must be at least 40,000 BTU and at least 90+% efficient; gas logs are excluded) used in new or existing construction. Installations in travel trailers, mobile or manufactured homes not in permanent residential or commercial use are ineligible.

The installation must take place on real property located within the Commonwealth of Virginia and be clearly identified by physical address on the rebate form.

Eligible water heaters must be propane-fueled, either a storage-type rated at not less than 30 gallons water capacity or a continuous (tankless) type rated at not less than 40,000 Btu/hour input.

No more than one rebate shall be paid for each eligible installation, although homes installing both a propane water heater and eligible home heating appliance and/or generator can receive funds for each appliance.

V. Compliance

VPREF will approve each application individually. Applications and supporting paperwork must be sent to the VPREF office. Missing data or factual errors may delay or disqualify an application.

Criteria for rejecting applications:

1. Postmarked more than 30 days after inspection: To be eligible, you will have to re-inspect the installation.
2. Incomplete application: The marketer will be contacted to supply any missing information, such as missing signatures. Failure to submit missing items within 30 days of notification will disqualify application.
3. False or misleading information: VPREF reserves the right to suspend a marketer's participation in the program if it adjudges the applicant submitted false information or otherwise violated program rules. An applicant may submit an appeal in writing within 30 days of notification. Actions taken by VPREF with respect to such appeals will be final.

Application: Rebates must be submitted on approved forms and applications will be considered on a first-come basis according to receipt dates of complete and correct applications. Applications and supporting documents must be sent to the VPREF office.

A safety inspection, conducted by or on behalf of the participating dealer, must be conducted prior to submission of any rebate application. Written documentation of the safety inspection is required. This inspection must be conducted on-site and include:

1. A leak check.
2. A pressure test as required by applicable laws.
3. A flow and lockup test on the regulator.

The "Gas Check" form developed by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) is preferred for use in documenting this safety inspection.

Payment: VPREF may approve rebates subject to availability of funds. Applicants have no legal right or entitlement to receive rebates under this program, and receipt of a complete and correct application does not bind VPREF to approve payment of a rebate to any applicant.

VPREF may authorize payment to a propane dealer only by assignment from a consumer, noted in writing and submitted with the rebate application. A propane dealer or applicant who submits false information pertinent to the assignment of a rebate is subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Questions? Contact **Tami Rawlette** by phone: **(804) 249-2232** or by email: Tami@eameetings.com