



ROUSH PROPANE FUEL TANK INFORMATION

#21-0422-PP



Propane Tank Maintenance Required

Recently there have been questions as to the rust and corrosion seen on propane fuel tanks that have been in service for several years.

Being in the Northeast where road conditions coupled with the manner in which these conditions are addressed with the chemicals used to maintain safe roadways lends itself deterioration of many components on vehicles operating during winter months.

The propane fuel tanks located under the rear of a school bus are prone to paint chipping and corrosion as seen in the photo above.

To help address these issues as well as answer questions concerning the continued use of tanks, Roush has provided the attached guidelines.

ALL of our Service Updates can be found on the [New York Bus Sales website](#)
Or at the [New York Head Mechanic website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: *While performing scheduled maintenance on my ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system I noticed there is some surface rust forming on my fuel tank. Is this okay, and if not, what should I do to correct this issue?*

A: Just because there is rust or corrosion noticed on a propane autogas fuel tank does not necessarily mean there is an issue with the fuel tank that requires attention. Propane autogas fuel tanks are designed with strict guidelines to meet or exceed the corrosion and structure requirements for vehicles the same as frame rails, axles, and suspension components which will develop rust or corrosion over time as well. If operating the vehicle in higher corrosion or severe climates, it is recommended by tank manufacturers to routinely clean and repaint the fuel tank with a rust preventative system. If the rust or corrosion seems excessive and concerns are still present, then it is recommended the fuel tank be inspected by an ASME certified repair facility to ensure the tank can still be in service. Please follow all ASME regulations in regards to fuel tank inspection and refinishing procedures. **Follow all ASME and NFPA-58 guidelines when working with propane autogas containers.**

Q: *What is the service life of the propane tank mounted on my ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system?*

A: The fuel tank utilized in the ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system is built to ASME standards and is rated for the usable life of the vehicle. Most propulsion propane tanks are built to stricter ASME standards, unlike DOT tanks which have a more limited service life.

Q: *Are there any type of inspection or recertification processes required on the propane tank of my ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system?*

A: The only inspection required on the fuel tank under normal operating conditions is the annual OPD inspection procedure. This procedure ensures that the fuel tank shuts off at 80% of its water capacity as specified per the NFPA-58 guidelines. This procedure can be found in the door jamb of the vehicle as well as the service manual information. If the tank has excessive corrosion or damages from external sources, such as a vehicle accident, then the tank should be inspected and/or repaired by an ASME certified tank repair facility.

Q: *Where can I find an certified fuel tank repair facility*

A: The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors certifies facilities to perform propane tank refinishing and repair. This website lets you search for facilities with the required "R Stamp"

Q: *During scheduled maintenance on my ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system I noticed that the data plate on my fuel tank is illegible. Is this a concern and if so what should I do to correct the issue?*

A: Per ASME and NFPA-58 guidelines the fuel tank data plate on a propane autogas fuel tank should remain fully legible to continue use of the vessel. If the data plate is not legible and unable to be cleaned back to a legible condition, then the tank must be decommissioned from service and taken to an ASME certified tank repair facility to be repaired.

Q: *While performing scheduled maintenance on my ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system I noticed a propane smell near the fuel tank. How do I inspect and/or resolve this issue before returning my vehicle to service?*

A: At no point in time during the normal operation of the ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel system should a propane smell be noticed, other than when the vehicle is fueling. If a propane odor is detected, we recommend that the vehicle is removed from service and the leak checking procedure from the service manual be performed to pin-point the source of the leak. The primary methods for detecting leaks are to use either a solution such as Snoop or soapy water to spray down the system to check for bubbles, or to use a methane gas detector to find the source of the leak. After the leak(s) have been identified and repaired, the vehicle can return to normal operation.

***For any questions or concerns with the above procedure please contact
ROUSH CleanTech Technical Assistance at 1-800-59-ROUSH (OPT 2).***

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Instructions for the removal and refinishing of surface corrosion on propane fuel tanks

🕒 Apr 20, 2021 · Knowledge

APPLIES TO 1

All Propane Fuel Tanks

PROCEDURE 1

In the event of corrosion or surface rust formation on your ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas fuel tank, follow the instructions below to refinish the propane tank. Also, if operating the vehicle in higher corrosion or severe climates, it is recommended by tank manufacturers to routinely clean and repaint the fuel tank with a rust preventative system. If more extensive refinishing or repair is required, the tank should be taken to a National Board approved R Stamp repair facility. A list of these facilities can be found at:

<http://www.nationalboard.org/ManufacturerDirectory.aspx>

NOTE: This procedure is a ROUSH CleanTech manufacturer recommended process and does not supersede or replace any local propane container refinishing regulations. Please follow all AMSE regulations in regard to fuel tank inspection and refinishing procedures.

Warning: Follow all NFPA-58 guidelines when working with propane autogas containers. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and take caution when working around pressurized vessels.

Recommended Refinishing Contents (**Based on fuel tank size quantities of materials below may vary**)

1. Wire brushes
2. 400 Grit Sandpaper
3. 600 Grit Sandpaper
4. 1 quart POR-15 Cleaner/Degreaser
5. 1 quart POR-15 Metal Prep
6. 1 gallon POR-15 Rust Preventative Permanent Coating- Grey
7. 1 gallon POR-15 Top Coat- White
8. Work Instructions

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Refinishing Work Instructions

NOTE: Before any corrosion removal or refinishing is to take place, please inspect the fuel tank to ensure it can be refinished. Data plate must be legible, tank must be free of leaks, and the tank must NOT have corrosion too severe for the fuel tank to be refinished per ASME regulations. Before beginning any work on the fuel tank, please ensure a leak check is performed on the fuel tank and complete fuel system to ensure leaks are not present. Then, disconnect the battery from the vehicle to ensure there is no power to the fuel tank components.

*****If the fuel tank is to be removed from the vehicle, please follow the fuel system depressurization procedure and fuel tank removal/installation procedure called out in the ROUSH CleanTech service manual located at www.roushcleantech.com/service. Follow all NFPA-58 guidelines when working with propane autogas fuel containers.**

1. Using a wire brush, remove all loose rust and paint from rust contaminated areas. Note: Use hand tools for this procedure. It is not recommended to use any power or air tools.
2. Using the 400 grit sandpaper, smooth any rough spots or edges left on the fuel tank.
3. Using shop air and/or a tack cloth remove all dust left over on the fuel tank from sanding and brushing.
4. Following the procedure recommended by POR-15, clean the fuel tank with cleaner/degreaser.
5. Following the procedure recommended by POR-15, prep the fuel tank with metal prep.
6. Following the procedure recommended by POR-15, apply two coats of POR-15 Rust Preventative Coating. To ensure a smooth finish, it is recommended to use 600 grit sandpaper for wet sanding in between and after coats.
7. Following the procedure recommended by POR-15 apply a final coat of POR-15 Top Coat to the fuel tank.
8. After all surfaces have been painted and dried, the vehicle is ready to return to operation.

Note: if fuel tank has been removed from the vehicle please follow the fuel system priming and tank installation procedures located in the ROUSH CleanTech service manual at www.roushcleantech.com/service.

PLEASE NOTE:

These documents are available on the Roush website, the links are below-

<https://rctws.force.com/rct/s/article/Maintenance-Procedure-Fuel-Tank-Corrosion-FAQ>

<https://rctws.force.com/rct/s/article/Maintenance-Procedure-Fuel-Tank-Refinishing>

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