

## PLUGGING IN: GAS CONVENIENCE OUTLETS AND CSST OFFER SAFE, EASY ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS SUPPLY

Convenience outlets offer homeowners an easy way to connect outdoor appliances to a natural gas supply delivered through corrugated stainless-steel tubing, or CSST.

The outlets work well with CSST, said Hoss Budde, president, Burnaby Manufacturing Ltd. They easily connect to CSST to provide a plug similar to an electrical outlet that allows homeowners to simply plug in gas grills, patio heaters, lights and other appliances.

The convenience outlet eliminates the need for homeowners to hire a contractor to connect new gas appliances.

"The homeowner can purchase an appliance, come home and plug it in," Budde said. "No calling a contractor to come out and install it. No having to shut down the whole house while the contractor installs it and then relighting all the appliances once he's done."

A new line of Versatile Gas Plugs™, VGP, offers convenience plugs enclosed in a small box designed to blend into wood, concrete, brick or rock surfaces. The VGP models conceal tubing, pipes and valves and allow for drainage of surface water through the box.

Once installed, the outlets allow homeowners to have more flexibility in the placement of outdoor appliances. Convenience outlets can connect to appliances via a flexible hose up to 10 feet long so that homeowners can move appliances around the patio or yard. Double outlets are also available so homeowners can plug in two devices at the same time.

The outlets also simplify moving and storage, Budde said. If homeowners buy new appliances, they can easily unplug the old appliance and plug in the new one without the need for contractors to connect or disconnect gas lines. When winter comes, homeowners can simply unplug the appliance and move it into winter storage. And, if homeowners move, they can take the appliance



When paired with corrugated stainless-steel tubing, or CSST, convenience outlets (like pictured) provide an easy, plug-in connection to a home's natural gas supply.

with them without having to call a contractor to disconnect it from the gas supply.

Convenience outlets come with a variety of safety features. They automatically shut off if the temperature reaches 300 degrees, and most require that the manual valve be shut off before the appliance is connected or disconnected. To ensure safety when connecting to CSST, homeowners should ensure the CSST lines are bonded and grounded.

With the proper permits, a homeowner who knows how to do gas piping can install the outlet themselves, Budde said. When doing so, they will likely want to order an extra strap to better secure the outlet in the box due to CSST's flexibility. Homeowners who are not comfortable connecting gas piping should contact a contractor or plumber to do the initial installation. ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF BURNABY MANUFACTURING LTD.

