

TEECO

Topics

Jan Feb Mar 2026

Serving the Propane Industry Since 1946



News, Information and Products for the Propane Professional

Teeco Celebrates 80 Years

Like so many businesses in the industry, Teeco's beginnings can be attributed to someone who saw a need and decided to fill it... from the trunk of his car.

In 1946, what was to become Tilden Engineering and Equipment Company (TEECO) was born in Ben Tilden's green '41 Pontiac. 80 years later, Teeco is still going strong and committed to meeting the needs of our customers.

We have decades long relationships with trusted propane equipment manufacturers and a team with expansive industry knowledge. We look forward to the next 80 years!



Tilden and others breaking ground at Teeco's Irvine, CA location



Ben Tilden circa 1960

Join Teeco at the Western Propane Convention in Portland, OR!

Co-Sponsored by the Western, Pacific, Arizona, Rocky Mountain and Nevada Propane Associations, this is the largest propane event West of the Mississippi!

Stop by our booths to explore new product lines, see product demonstrations, and connect with our team.

We're also co-hosting the hospitality evening on Thursday, May 14, from 6–9 pm at the Met Tavern—we'd love to see you there for great food, drinks, and conversation.



Be sure to check out the WPERC Silent Auction Benefit on the convention floor.

This annual event benefits the WPERC Scholarship Fund, which helps dependents of propane industry members going into their first year of college or trade school.

To donate items or learn more about scholarship applications, contact the WPGA 916-447-9742.



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Quality LP Gas Products from a Company You Can Trust

Outside the Box

With Jay Stephens

President and CEO
Teeco Products, Inc.



Happy New Year from Teeco Products and Ray Murray, Inc. Our team is very excited to attend the Western Propane Tradeshow and Convention in a new location – Portland, Oregon. We look forward to seeing everyone. In case you needed any more reasons to visit, I thought I'd put together the **TOP TEN**.

- ◇ Find out why Portland, OR is known as the **City of Roses**. Visit the International Rose Test Garden, Washington Park...etc. Not into flowers...try visiting The Portland Art Museum, the Pittock Mansion, or pick up the pace with great hiking, bike riding, zip-lining.
- ◇ While there, you are **NOT at work**. If you are doing a little work and conversing, you are fine even if you might have an ice-cold IPA beer in your hand.
- ◇ The **food!** Spectacular restaurants, farmers markets, food trucks, desert shops and related side trips. Who wants to try the world-famous Voodoo Doughnuts?!

- ◇ Great new and old **propane equipment** and trucks on display. **You need what? – Oh we've got that!**
- ◇ **Not Reno** – It's always nice to try new things and new experiences.
- ◇ **Networking** - Sometimes it's tough to get out to see customers, manufacturers and suppliers. See them all in one place!
- ◇ **Weather** – the daytime high temperatures in May average 58 to 68 degrees. Perfect weather to do anything except maybe sunbathing, but definitely perfect for a round of golf at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course. Awesome place!
- ◇ Come meet our new partners in the propane industry – The **Ray Murray, Inc.** leadership team.
- ◇ **Beer!** Portland is a beer-lover's paradise. 80 breweries and a history that dates back to the 1860's.
- ◇ Most of all...**WE MISS YOU!**

Jay Stephens

Words to live by –

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

- Theodore Roosevelt

Teeco Topics is published four times yearly by Teeco Products as a service to our customers. 4,000 copies are distributed to customers and selected LP Gas industry leaders.

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SAFETY FIRST: Tips from the Pro

The Importance of Gas System Checks

By Rob Scott



The Gas Check Program has evolved over the years. I remember when I started in the industry: the company's work orders had sections to document leak, flow, and lockup tests, but no space to document anything regarding the appliances. Even though we looked at them and operated them, there was no space provided to document our findings. Then, a new program gave companies the option to conduct a Gas System Check, which focused on the whole system, with a form designed to record all the information in the system. When PERC became the safety and training content developer, changes occurred once again, giving suppliers the option to conduct a Gas System Check of the outdoor equipment, including containers and their setbacks, testing for leaks in the piping system, and testing regulators for flow, lockups, and tests. They could choose to perform a Gas Appliance System Check, which inspected the interior gas distribution system and all propane-burning appliances. Both of these System Checks are voluntary. However, this does not mean they weren't being conducted; different companies referred to them by various names. The program provides an inspection map that outlines the system from the storage tank to the last burning appliance. By conducting the Propane Safety Check properly and ensuring that both the service technician and the customer sign the documentation, the homeowner gains peace of mind knowing their system is safe.

Now, let's review some steps for the outdoor system check.

1. Fill out the outdoor form with the customer's information, ensuring all details are current, and explain what the inspection will include.
2. Begin with the storage tank. Check if the container is located according to the code. If the container is a DOT cylinder rather than an ASME container, verify that the cylinder is within its current qualification date. If it is out of date, do not fill it until you complete the in-field modified recertification, as outlined in NFPA 58.
3. Conduct a visual inspection of the valves and regulators to ensure they are free of dirt and debris. Confirm that the caps are in place and that the vent screens are also free of debris and pointed downward. Checking for leaks and ensure both the regulator and relief valve date codes meet the manufacturer's useful life expectancy. If they do not, what is your customer's policy?
4. If your customer has an underground tank, it's crucial to check whether the tank is protected from corrosion by sacrificial anodes. Verify the testing frequency, as California mandates that any underground tank installed at a place of employment must be tested annually and that a report be sent to the Division of Industrial Relations by June. Failing to comply could require digging up the tank for a full inspection

Recently, one of our members installed a tank for a new customer. It was an older home; the tank was set, and an outdoor and an indoor Gas Check were performed. The service technician reviewed the

information on the forms and answered any questions. Both he and the customer signed all the documents.

A couple of weeks ago, the company received a phone call from the customer, who said their plumber had told them the propane pressure was too high and had damaged the new tankless water and heating unit. The customer's plumber told them the propane supplier should pay for the repairs. The company investigated with copies of the gas check they had just completed when the tank was set, and what they found was shocking. So, the plumber had talked the customer into replacing his standard tank-type water heater with a tankless water heater and a new heater for the house. When the plumber tested them, they worked fine, but when both units were in use, one would shut down due to low pressure. So instead of calling the propane company, the plumber replaced the regulator at the tank, and yes, changed out the twin-stage and installed a first stage without installing the second stage.

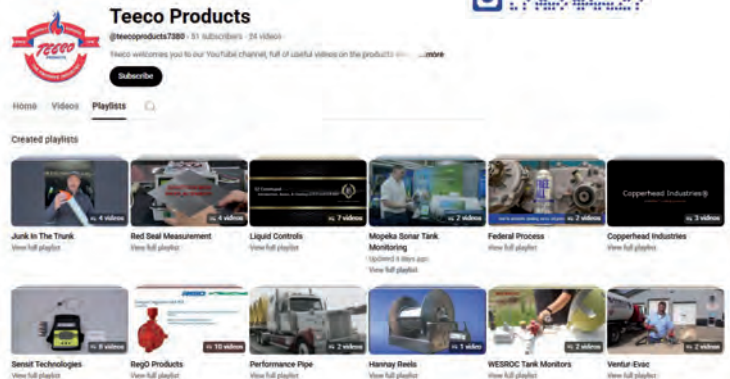
In conclusion, conducting proper gas checks gives homeowners peace of mind by ensuring them that their systems are safe. Additionally, it provides suppliers with the necessary documentation to defend against claims. Consider the consequences if a house were to burn down and you lacked proof of the service you provided; having signed documents will support your case.

Teeco on YouTube

Your Go-To Channel for Product Knowledge

Looking to get the most out of your propane equipment? Our YouTube channel is packed with quick tips, product overviews, and training videos designed to make your job easier. Subscribe today and stay up to date on the latest tools, technology, and know-how from the experts you trust.

Subscribe now and never miss a new video!



Dive into an ever-growing library of expert tutorials, product highlights, and no-fuss tips designed to elevate your knowledge of the equipment you use. Whether you're brushing up on classic products or exploring new industry technology, our channel delivers clear, impactful knowledge - right when you need it.

Stay curious. Stay ahead.

Out & About With

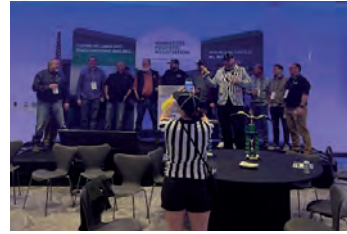


Minnesota Propane Convention

The Minnesota Propane Association held its Winter Convention February 24-26th at the Radisson Blu Mall of America in Bloomington, MN. In addition to a talented group of speakers and a variety of opportunities to connect with fellow industry members, the group held their 2nd annual Winter Propane Olympics. Teams of 4 were able to use cunning and skill to compete in 8 fast paced games. The top two teams squared off in the end in a Propane themed game of Family Feud. Fun was had by all!

Teeco Regional Sales Manager for the Rocky Mountains and Midwest, Mike Lorenz, attended the events. Lorenz is also serving on the Association's Conventions Committee and helped with this year's Winter Propane Olympics. He is looking forward to more participation in the Association going forward.

Mike Hopsicker, President and CEO of Ray Murray, Inc., Teeco's parent company, was one of the convention's presenters. He spoke about the current state of the industry and some of the great things the NPGA is doing. He also spoke to the strength of the Minnesota Propane Association and what they are doing.



Teeco / Ray Murray, Inc. Sales Meeting

The Teeco and Ray Murray, Inc. team came together in February at RMI headquarters in Lee, Mass for a combined sales and strategy meeting. It was a great opportunity to bond and communicate a shared vision for the year ahead. In addition to business overviews and vendor presentations, the team enjoyed an employee happy hour and benefitted from a Teeco Dispenser Training session, presented by Teeco President, Jay Stephens.



TEECO SPOTLIGHT

Ralph Poole

We are excited to announce that Ralph Poole has joined the Ray Murray, Inc. / Teeco team as LP Technical Support! Ralph comes with 26 years of valuable industry experience and served 20 years in the US Army prior to his career in the propane industry. Ralph has experience in all things LP, with a specific expertise in plant, truck and industrial applications.

Ralph is available to assist the RMI team and customers on the East Coast, while also serving as an LP Technical Support resource for the Teeco team and customers on the West Coast. He will help us continue to develop our plant, truck, and industrial business nationwide.

Please join us in welcoming Ralph to the RMI / Teeco team!



Propane Dispensers at



Teeco's LDM Series Dispensers

With space for a scale, your favorite tools and more, the LDM has a lot to offer. This Diamond Plated Double-Door Aluminum Cabinet measures in at 42" wide x 42" deep x 52" high, and comes with Locking Rods, T-Handle Latch for extra security and Safety Shock for both doors and lid to protect against wind and elements. It sits on a powder-coated Heavy-Duty Steel Support Base.



PDM and TDM Series

These tried and true standards have stood the test of time. In fact, the PACA (PDM Series) and Teeco (TDM Series) Dispensers remain our most popular models, decades after they were first introduced.

Both models feature a pump of your choice, Neptune 1" Meter with 600 Series Register, RegO Pull-Away Valve, 15' LPG Hose with Hose-End Valve and 1 3/4" ACME Fill Connector and Automatic Bypass Valve.

Customize your unit with your choice of pump, optional dual hose, temperature compensator, electronic register and more. Upgrade your unit for AutoGas use with a larger pump and motor.



Teeco Dispenser Plates

Just need the bare essentials? Our Dispenser Plates get the job done efficiently with a much smaller footprint. They offer the same equipment as our full dispensers, minus the cabinet. Add an optional Lock Box for added security.



Upcoming Industry Events - Mark Your Calendars!



Western Propane Convention
May 11-15, 2026
Portland, OR



CO / NM Convention
June 15-16, 2026
Ignacio, CO

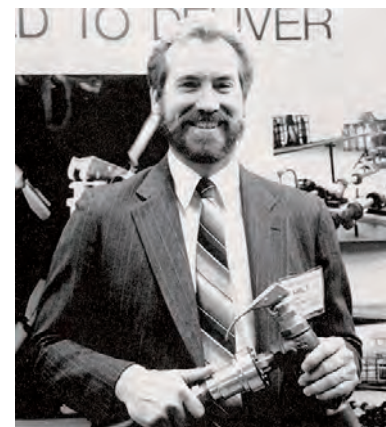


PPGA Summer Conference
August 12-14, 2026
Stevenson, WA



RMPGA Fall Conference
September 1-3, 2026
Bryce Canyon, UT

Celebrating 35 Years of Full-Circle!



Walt Smith with swivel at first tradeshow.



First SMAC hose reel swivel installation

The Full-Circle story began in 1991, when a concept was developed at the Western Propane Gas Association exhibition in Palm Springs, CA for a hose-end swivel designed for LP-gas transfers from bobtail delivery trucks. Walter Smith, retired President of Smith Pumps and John Ives, retired Sales Manager, were busy setting up their booth. Former Teeco Products President and CEO Bob Bailey, working at Pacific Carburetion Assemblies Inc. at the time, saw Walt and John and expressed an interest in a listed hose-end swivel designed specifically for the propane industry.

That night, Smith was eager to get back to his hotel room and think more about the swivel idea. He sketched a crude design on hotel stationery. Five days later, he was back in the office, on track to develop a prototype for testing.

“If that perfect storm had not occurred, Walter says, “Full-Circle never would have been born. The product never would have been developed. It just would not have happened.”

Later that year, Walter Smith founded Full-Circle, becoming the first company to list a swivel with Underwriters Laboratories for LP-gas service. The SMAC-1 swivel laid the foundation for designs to follow.

Over the years, Full-Circle introduced the SMAC-series hose reel swivels, in addition to developing the JO-1 hose-end swivel, which was one-half the weight and one-half the size of the original SMAC-1. This innovation was recognized by Design News magazine as one of the best-designed products of 1995, paving the way for the establishment of a new production facility in Yucca Valley, California, gateway to the Joshua Tree National Park.

Thirty-five years later, the company manufactures hose-end, 90-degree, and straight-through configuration swivels in five different pipe sizes for bulkhead, loading arm, and hose reel applications certified for worldwide use. Their product line also includes Victaulic-coupled swivels, vent devices for meters, and stainless-steel swivels for railroad loading arms. Their newest innovation, the JO-114M series (1-1/4” MNPT x 1-1/4” FNPT) hose-end swivel, is designed specifically for larger hose applications.

In April 2025, Walter Smith—founder and inventor of Full-Circle’s original product line—was inducted into the LP-Gas Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to the industry. Today, Full-Circle continues to manufacture highly engineered products that are innovative, user-friendly, and maintenance-free, serving a wide range of industries across the globe. For 35 years, the company’s family-driven approach has remained focused on quality, reliability, and building long-term customer partnerships.



Walt and CJ Smith at new production facility 1998



Full-Circle Manufacturing Plant 2026



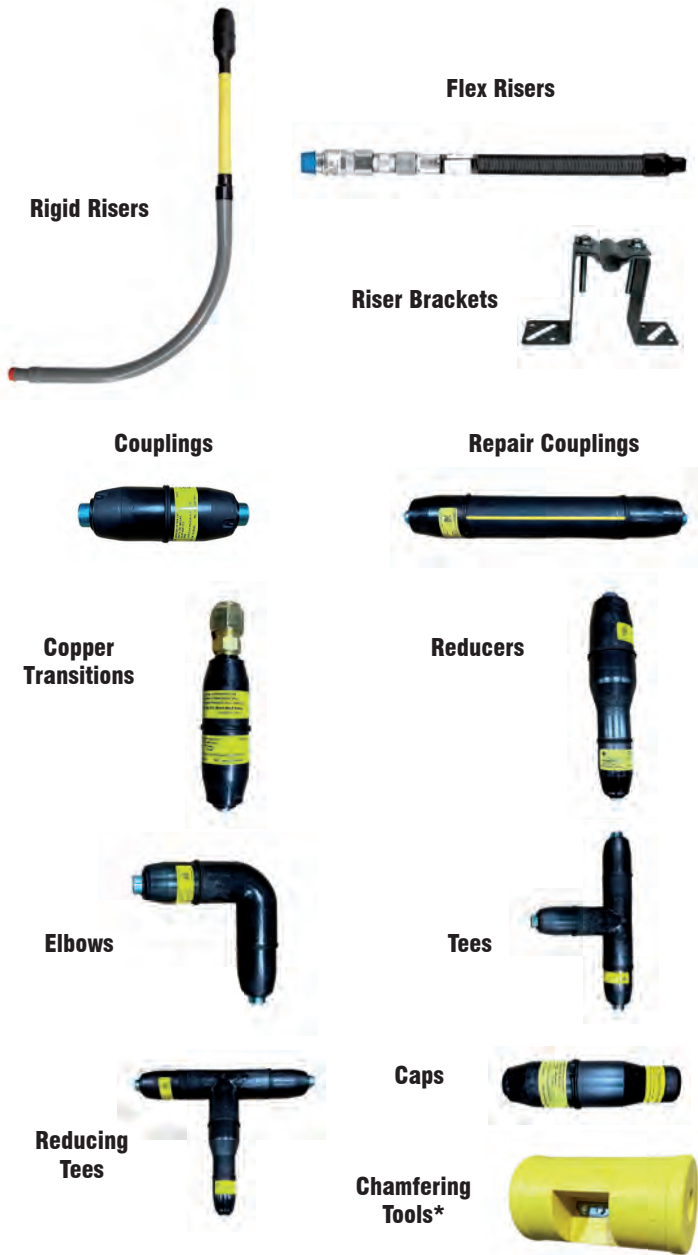
Walter Smith & Family LPG Hall of Fame Induction 2025

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



Perfection's Permasert 2.0 Mechanical Fittings

- The only mechanical fitting in the industry that seals on the inside and outside of the pipe, allowing for continued performance in the event of a sealing failure
- Fast and easy to install
- High quality product Made in the USA
- Perfection chamfer tools must be used to chamfer the pipe prior to installation
- Contact your Teeco Representative for information



* **Note:** Perfection chamfer tools must be used to chamfer the pipe prior to installation

What's Happening in the Industry

2026

REBATE PROGRAMS!



New Industry and Manufacturers' Rebates Available for 2026

To simplify the process of finding the latest propane equipment rebates, we've added helpful links right on the Teeco website.

1. Go to www.TeecoProducts.com.
2. Click on Industry Links at the top of the page
3. Find the propane association(s) that apply to your region
4. Click the corresponding link to go directly to the Rebate Page you need.

Inside *TEECO*

A Friendly Reminder...

Teeco's Irvine, CA Office has Moved!

Please use our new address in Costa Mesa, CA:

Teeco Products | 2900 Bristol Street, Suite J203 | Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Please send check payments to our new Lock Box:

Teeco Products | PO Box 844112 | Los Angeles, CA 90084-4112

You can also reach our **Accounting Department** by phone at 949-261-6295



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Inside TEECO



As we celebrate Teeco's 80th anniversary, we are thankful for all the great relationships we've made along the way, and we'd love to hear from you! What are some of your favorite Teeco memories?

Please send your Teeco memories / photos to: mary@teecoproducts.com

Answer to last "Who Is It?"

Dee Lewis, Teeco Auburn, WA

Most of my child hood was spent moving around. My father was in the military, so I lived in 5 different states and 3 years in England. So not real roots anywhere. Growing up, we always had dogs and cats as pets.



Prior to the Propane industry, I was a bar tender by trade.

That is exactly how I ended up in this industry. One of my bar customers was the manager for Van Gas which was bought out by Suburban Propane. The only thing he said I had to learn was 10 key.

So I went to work for a short time in a bank as a Teller, then to the bank's back office for return items and research. When I gave them my two weeks' notice, They tried offering more money to stay, but here I am in the propane industry and I wouldn't change it for the world. I did get everyone at the bank's back office raises though.

Online Ordering & Account Management at TeecoProducts.com

- Place Orders • Check Pricing & Availability • Streamline Purchasing by Creating Favorites Lists • Track Shipments • Build Quotes • Review Purchase History

Online ordering saves you time and money. It's simple to use and open 24/7. Build a favorites list to place orders in a fraction of the time.

Need to Sign Up for an Online Account? It's Easy!

- 1 Simply go to www.teecoproducts.com and click the Login button on the top bar.
- 2 If you already have an online account with Teeco, enter your email address and password. If not, click Register Now in the box on the right. Enter your name and company information and hit the Submit button. You'll be taken back to the Login page above, where you'll enter your email address and password.
- 3 You're now ready to place your order!

Note: For current Teeco Products Customers only. Must have a valid Teeco account to register online. Questions? Call your Teeco Representative. We're here to help!