

outdoor grilling safeguards

for onsite staff



SAFETY TIPS

This risk management services technical bulletin provides policyholders with specific standards and guidelines on outdoor grilling for all residential occupancies (apartments, condominiums, homeowners associations, townhouses, etc.).

Liquid petroleum (lp) gas or propane, used in gas grills, is extremely flammable. Each year more than 500 fires occur when people use gas grills and about 20 people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions. Many of these fires and explosions occur when consumers first use a grill that has been left idle for a period of time or just after refilling and reattaching the grill's gas container.¹ The use of gas-fired and charcoal grills within residential cluster communities represents significant property exposure. Always keep a fire extinguisher on hand when grilling



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Option one: all propane gas grills, natural gas grills, charcoal grills, hibachis, smokers, or any appliance which uses an open flame to cook should be kept at least 10 ft. Vertically and horizontally from all buildings and other combustible materials (pine straw, pine bark, and other combustible landscaping materials).

Option two: a community stationary grilling pit (consisting of grills similar to the ones shown below) should be considered as a replacement for all personal grills within all condominium and residential community. The fixed grilling pits must be at least 15 ft. From all buildings and must be properly maintained and cleaned in accordance with community's restrictions.



CHARCOAL GRILLING TIPS

Instant lighting briquette - spread them in a single layer so they touch at the edges.

Don't apply lighter fluid, light several briquette sat their edges

Standard briquette - stack them into a pyramid. Light with fluid,electric, or chimney charcoal starters

Electric starters - check to see that the cord's insulating cover is in good condition, make sure that the cord does not create a tripping hazard, and do not use it if it's raining or if the ground is wet

Lighter fluid - apply and let soak in for at least a minute before lighting. Never apply lighter fluid to lit coals. Use charcoal lighter fluids, never use gasoline!

Time to cook - coals are ready when they appear ash gray in day lighter glowing red

At night ensure coals are extinguished prior to disposal.

Always keep a fire extinguisher on hand

Option 1



Option 2



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CHARCOAL GRILL SAFETY TIPS



Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear the blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner

Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing

Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them

Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which can eventually leak gas



If you detect a gas leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed

Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill

Never use a grill indoors. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from any building. Do not use the grill in garage, carport, porch, or under a surface that can catch fire

When lighting the grill, keep the top open. If the grill does not light in the first several attempts, wait 5 minutes to allow gas to dissipate

Never attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See a gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person

Consumers should use caution when storing gas containers.

Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill. Never store a full container indoors.

Never store rouse flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill

To avoid incidents while transporting gas containers, consumers should transport the container in secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase causing the relief valve to open and allowing gas to escape