

City of Minneapolis Fire Department



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Barbecue Grills on Balconies and Patios of Multi-Residential Buildings

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Approved: Bryan Tyner, Fire Marshal

It is the policy of the Minneapolis Fire Department not to allow the use of liquefied petroleum (LP) fueled barbecue grills on balconies or patios above the ground level of residential buildings having 3 or more dwelling units.

Hot ashes and spontaneous ignition sources, smoldering coals, greasy or oily materials shall not be deposited in combustible receptacles or within 10 feet of other combustible materials, including walls and partitions or within 2 feet of openings to buildings.

Grills on ground level must be at least 15 feet from any structure.

EXCEPTION: Charcoal briquette grills and listed electric or gas-fired barbecue grills that are securely mounted to prevent accidental tipping, wired to the building's electrical system, or plumbed to the building's gas supply, and LP grills using 1-lb. disposable tanks. Grills shall maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches on all sides (unless listed for lesser clearances). Charcoal burners and gas grills must be 10 feet from any combustible material and shall not be used on combustible balconies or patios. Fire-treated or green-treated lumber is still considered combustible construction.

Reference: Minnesota State Fire Code Section 305.2, 307.5 and NFPA 58.

Types of grills that are allowed on balconies in the City of Minneapolis



Charcoal



Electric



Connected to piped natural gas



1 pound propane cylinder

Propane tanks larger than 1 pound ARE NOT ALLOWED



(20 pound tank)