



Grilling Safety Tips

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- Place grills well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Don't use or store on a combustible porch or balcony.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited.
- Never leave a grill unattended.
- Always be sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal Grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal with newspaper.
- If you use starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fuel or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

Propane Grills

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Do so by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. A gas leak will release bubbles.
- If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame:
 - Turn off the propane tank and grill.
 - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If the leak does not stop, call the fire department (9-1-1).
- **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department (9-1-1). Do not attempt to move the grill.**
- If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 15 minutes before relighting it.
- Turn off the propane tank before turning off the grill so residual gas in the hose is burned off.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it in a secure outside area.

Fire Facts



July is the peak month for grill fires.



U.S. Fire Departments respond to an average of 8,600 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbeques each year.



These 8,600 fires cause an annual average of 10 deaths, 140 reported injuries and \$75 million in property damage.



Five of every six grills involved in home fires (83%) is fueled by propane gas while 14% are fueled by charcoal or other solid fuel.



Leaks or breaks are the leading factors contributing to gas grill fires.



More than one-quarter (28%) of the home structure fires involving grills starts on a courtyard, terrace, or patio. Another 28% start on an exterior balcony or open porch.

Source: National Fire Protection Agency