

Barbecue Safety Rules and Guidelines

General

- Set up your grill in an open area a minimum of 10 feet away from any structure and away from dry leaves or brush.
- Place your grill on a level surface away from low hanging trees, deck railings, or any combustible materials.
- Do not use your grill in a garage, breezeway, porch, balcony, roof, fire escape, or under any structure that can catch fire.
- It is always a good idea to have a fire extinguisher on hand when grilling.
- It is a good practice to use long handled barbecue tools and flame retardant mitts.
- Do not wear loose clothing while grilling.
- NEVER leave children or pets unattended near a hot grill.

Charcoal Grills

- NEVER use gasoline or kerosene as a lighter fluid.
- Always use charcoal grills in a well ventilated area. Charcoal briquettes emit deadly carbon monoxide gas. See warning below.
- After using charcoal lighter fluid, cap the container and move it a safe distance away from the fire.
- Never add any type of flammable liquid starter fluid once the coals are burning.

Charcoal Disposal

When you are done with your charcoal grill be sure to dispose of the coals responsibly. Allow coals to completely burn themselves out. Coals can take up to 48 hours to completely extinguish themselves. If you are unsure if the coals have completely burned out, add small amounts of water to the coals. Improperly disposed of coals have started many fires even when they are a day or two old. Since used coals can easily reignite when they are exposed to fresh air it is very important to follow these precautions:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and allow the ashes to cool for 48 hours.
- If you must dispose of coals/ashes before they are fully cooled soak them with water.
- Always dispose of the coals in a metal container.
- Ashes can be wrapped in aluminum foil prior to disposal.
- Never store used coals inside. Never store used coals near combustible materials.
- Never burn charcoal indoors even if you think you have proper ventilation.
- Since charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes never store a recently used grill indoors with used briquettes.

Gas/Propane Grills

Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane, used in gas grills is highly flammable. Each year approximately 30 people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions, and these are reported cases. The amount of people actually injured is far greater. Many of these fires and explosions that occur are a result consumers using a grill after it has been sitting for a period of time, or, just after refilling and reattaching the grills gas supply. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion a user should routinely perform the following safety checks:

- Check the (Venturi) tubes that lead to the burners for any blockage. Spiders like to nest in these tubes. Insects and food/grease can also block these tubes increasing the chance of fire. Use a pipe cleaner or specialty brush to clear blockage in the tubes.

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- Check the grill hoses from your gas supply tank and side burners for cracking, brittleness, holes or leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hoses/tubing.
- Be sure your supply hoses are not in contact with the fire box and that they are not exposed to hot dripping grease when the grill is in use. If the hoses cannot be moved and they appear to be an issue, a heat shield can be installed.
- Replace connectors if they appear to be bent, scratched, nicked, or cross threaded. Damaged connectors are a serious hazard and should be replaced before putting the grill into use.
- Check for gas leaks, most manufacturers of grills have instructions in their owner's manual on how to effectively perform this. If you detect a leak, immediately shut off the gas supply and do not use the grill until the leak is fixed.
- Do not attempt to repair a tank valve on your own. See a qualified natural gas/propane dealer or appliance repair person for assistance.

Gas/Propane Grills

- When lighting a gas grill always open the lid before turning on the gas. Turn on the gas and light immediately. Do not allow gas to "build up."
- When lighting a gas grill that does not have a built in ignitor a long fireplace match or lighter with a metal extension should be used.
- Keep your face, hands and clothing as far as possible from the ignition source when lighting.
- Do not attempt to light a grill with a cigarette.
- Never use a gas/propane grill indoors. Use the grill a minimum of 10 feet away from any structure.
- Never use the grill in your garage, balcony, deck handrails, or under any cover that might catch fire.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for grill usage.
- Always turn off the gas supply to the grill when not in use.
- Never store flammable liquids, like gasoline near your grill.

Use caution when storing LP gas tanks. Containers should always be stored upright. To avoid accidents while transporting LP tanks, a person should transport the tank in a secured upright position. Never keep a filled tank in a hot car or car trunk. Heat can cause the pressure in the tank to increase and open the relief valve causing gas to escape.

Please use extreme caution and always follow manufacturer's instructions when disconnecting and connecting LP gas containers.

In October of 1995 a leak hazard requirement was passed which addresses the following:

- Grills manufactured after October 1, 1995 must have:
 - A device to limit the flow of gas in the vent of a hose rupture.
 - A mechanism to shut-off the grill, and
 - A feature to prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and the grill is not leak proof.

If you are using a grill that was manufactured prior to October of 1995 you should be aware that the safety features above may not be present, making the above system checks all that more important.

Carbon Monoxide Warning

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments.