



June 2015

Grill Safety:

Grills must only be used outdoors. The heat created by a grill, and the process of burning any fuel poses both a fire hazard and the risk of carbon monoxide exposure.

The following information is designed to encourage safe use of any type of grill:

- Never use a grill indoors, in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, awning, or beneath an overhang or other surface that can catch fire or trap heat and carbon monoxide.
- Place the grill at least 10 feet away from any building, deck railings, eaves, fences and overhead branches.
- Keep the grill a safe distance from sitting areas, recreation spaces, and pathways.
- Keep a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill that only the person using the grill can enter.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the cook plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Do not wear loose clothing while grilling.
- Only use a grill the way it was intended. Never convert a gas grill to use with charcoal.
- **Never leave a burning grill unattended.**

Gas Grills:

Gas used in grills is highly flammable. At the start of every grilling season and several times during the summer, the grill should be checked:

- Check the gas tank for damage
- Check all hoses for leaks, blockages or damage. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your

grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, turn off the gas tank and grill and get it serviced by a professional.

- Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. A pipe cleaner can be used to clear blockage by pushing them through to the main part of the burner.
- Examine the fittings on the hose and replace any scratched or nicked connectors. Make sure all connections are properly tightened.

Additional safety considerations:

- Keep gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- *Grills should be cleaned before and after each use. Dirty grills cause fires!!*
- Clean grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill.
- Open the lid before turning on the gas or lighting.
- When you have finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder.
- Never leave a gas grill unattended; turn it off if you have to step away.
- Never use gas cylinders that are past their legal use date.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Use caution when storing liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane containers. Never store gas tanks in or next to houses or attached garages. Always keep containers upright.
- When transporting gas containers, secure them in the vehicle in an upright position.
- Never keep a tank in a hot car or car trunk.

Charcoal Grill Safety Considerations:

- **A charcoal grill cannot be turned off once lit; it MUST to be constantly attended.**
- Do not overfill the charcoal; use just enough to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 2 inches.

- Store extra charcoal in a metal container with a tight fitting lid to keep it dry. Charcoal that gets even a little damp increases the chances of spontaneous combustion, even if it's in the original wrapper.
- If using fluid to start the charcoal grill, use only starter fluid intended for this purpose. It is extremely dangerous to use any other combustible liquid to start the coals.
- Never apply charcoal lighter/starter fluid after the charcoal has been lit.
- Store charcoal and starter fluid away from heat sources. Avoid storing large quantities.
- **Make sure charcoal has been completely extinguished before disposing of the ashes and storing the grill;** ashes may reignite 48 to 72 hours after use. Use a non-flammable container such as a metal bucket with a tight fitting cover to store ashes away from any buildings, fences, etc.

Following these safety guidelines is the first step in preventing grill related problems. In the event of a fire or if a gas leak is discovered remember the following:

If you have a grill fire, immediately move a safe distance from the fire and call 911.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.

Do not attempt to move a grill which is on fire or leaking gas.

Additional information on grilling safety can be found at:

NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control:

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/publications/documents/fire-prevention/bbq.pdf>

National Fire Protection Association:

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/grilling>

United States Fire Administration:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/infographic_grilling_fire_safety.pdf

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