



BARBECUE SAFETY

Always follow ALL of the manufactures instructions and keep written materials and manuals in a safe, accessible place.

Regulations

The following regulations apply to the use of portable charcoal and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) operated cooking grilles on or within a building or structure and includes balconies, fire escapes, porches, roofs etc.

LP Gas Operated Grills

527 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulation 6.07 (5) (a) **prohibits the use or storage of liquefied petroleum gas containers used for barbecue cooking inside or on balconies above the first floor of any building or structure – You can ONLY BBQ at ground level.**

The **Boston Fire Department** prohibits the use or storage of liquified petroleum gas containers used for barbecue cooking on first floor porches, decks or balconies that are enclosed by a roof/ceiling or other confining material for the following reasons:

- Expansion rate of leaking Liquified Propane Gas (270 times the volume) in a confining area will increase the danger of explosive gas build up.
- LPG operated grills inside a house, garage, or any enclosed area, may cause carbon monoxide to accumulate and **could cause serious injury or death.**
- The pressure relief valve will release propane if the pressure inside the cylinder becomes to great. Pressure varies according to temperature, regardless of the amount of propane inside and would be dangerous if in a confining space. This includes 1-lb. propane containers attached to portable cooking grills.
- Propane containers shall be located in areas where there is free air circulation, at least 3 feet from building openings (such as windows and doors), and at least 5 feet from air intakes of air conditioning and ventilating systems.**
- Under no circumstances may gas or charcoal grills be used on fire escapes or fire escape balconies.
- 527CMR 6.08(e) state that no permit is required for the storage and use of LP gas (propane) cylinders of an **amount less** than 42 lbs in approved locations.
- This allows the use and storage of 2 20-lb. propane cylinders without a permit. **If you are using and storing more than 42 lbs. of propane – a permit from the local fire department is REQUIRED in advance of the BBQ.**



General Safety Tips

By following a few simple safety precautions will help ensure that their outdoor cooking remains trouble-free and enjoyable.

- LPG grills are **not permitted** inside or on first floor porches, decks or balconies that are enclosed by a roof/ceiling or other confining material of any building or structure used for habitation.
- Always locate a barbecue away from any combustible wall.
- Set up grill in an open area away from buildings, dry leaves or brush.
- Be aware of the wind blowing sparks.
- Place grill on a level surface away from low hanging trees, deck railings, siding or any combustible materials.
- It's a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher or a charged garden hose within handy reach.
- Use long handled barbecue tools and flame retardant mitts.
- Do not wear loose clothing and watch for dangling apron strings and shirt tails.
- NEVER leave children or pets unattended near a hot grill

Gas Grill Safety

Gas grills are safe and convenient appliances when assembled and used properly. Gas grills bring into play another element, Liquid Propane (LP). LP gas is pressurized and **requires special handling and storage**.

- Before having an LP cylinder filled, check it for dents, gouges or other signs of disrepair.
- When having a cylinder filled, it is important to make sure that the cylinder is not overfilled.
- Check and make sure all connections are tight BEFORE turning on the gas. Leaks can be detected by dabbing the connections with a solution of soapy water and turning on the gas momentarily. If bubbles occur, there is a leak and it must be fixed before the grill is used.
- Never store a spare LP cylinder under or near a barbecue, heat source or open flame.
- Never ignite a gas grill with the lid closed.** The propane may accumulate inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off.
- Store extra cylinders outdoors in a shaded area.
- ALWAYS insert the POL safety plug into the LP cylinder valve outlet when not hooked up to the grill.
- When the LP cylinder is connected, the grill must be kept outside in a well-vented space. Never use gas grills inside a house, garage or any enclosed area, because carbon monoxide may accumulate and could cause serious injury or death.
- When finished with the grill, turn off the barbecue burners and the propane cylinder.
- The pressure relief valve will release propane if the pressure inside the cylinder becomes too great. Pressure varies according to temperature, regardless of the amount of propane inside.



Transporting LPG Cylinders

When transporting LPG cylinders it is important to follow these procedures:

- Close the valve tightly, even if empty.
- Insert the POL plug securely into the valve.
- Place the LPG cylinder on the floor, in back of the passenger seat.
- Make sure it is secured and that the windows are rolled down for ventilation.
- LPG cylinders **SHOULD NOT** be transported in the trunk. If you must transport the cylinder this way, the cylinder should be placed gently in the trunk and fastened so it will not shift. The trunk should be secured as to allow it to remain partially open.
- Cylinders must always be upright, whether in storage, during transportation, or in use.
- Cylinders should never be transported, stored or installed in an enclosed space. In permanent dwellings or recreational vehicles, cylinders must be outside, or in compartments that are sealed from the inside and vented from the outside. This will avoid a dangerous build-up of propane vapors.

Clean Grill Safe Tips

Your owner's manual should give detailed instructions on this procedure. Clean your venturi tubes on gas barbecues regularly. Insects love to build nests in these tubes, causing blockages. This makes grills difficult to ignite and may force gas outside the venturi tube. In addition, this poses a serious problem because it interferes with the gas flow making the flame uneven and dangerous.

Charcoal Grill Safety

It is important to note that charcoal grills have some potentially dangerous components that the user must be familiar with when using this type of grill.

- NEVER** use gasoline or kerosene to start the fire.
- Always use charcoal grills in a well-ventilated area. Charcoal briquettes give off the deadly gas carbon monoxide.
- A charcoal chimney is a preferred method to start a charcoal fire.
- If using lighter fluid, after using starter fluid, cap the container and move it away from the fire. **NEVER** add any type of starter fluid once the coals are burning.
- To stop flare-ups, move cooking grid up and spread out coals.
- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool for 48 hours.**
- If you must dispose of the ashes before fully cooled, soak them completely in water before putting them in a non-combustible metal container.**
- To dispose of the ashes, wrap in foil and put them in an empty non-combustible container.**



Summertime Safety



- It is estimated that grill fires cause **10 deaths, 100 injuries and \$37 million in dollar loss per year.** (2006–2008)
- **Over half (57 percent)** of grill fires occur in the months of May, June, July, and August. (2006–2008)
- **74 percent** of all children's camping injuries are campfire-related. (Dayton Children's Medical Center)

Burn Care for minor burns, including first-degree burns and second-degree burns limited to an area no larger than 3 inches:

- Cool the burn area under cool running water for 10 to 15 minutes or until the pain subsides. Don't put ice on the burn.
- Cover the burn with a sterile gauze bandage.
- Take an over-the-counter pain reliever.

(MayoClinic.com)



U.S. Fire Administration

For information and resources on this subject, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus