



Iredell County Fire Marshal's Office Grilling Regulation

The North Carolina Fire Code prohibits the use of open flame cooking devices on combustible decks or near combustible materials. Balconies made of wood and other natural products are defined as combustible construction. Vinyl siding and other flammable coverings also meet this criteria. All wall surfaces including wood overhangs and doors are covered by these regulations.

308.3.1 Open-flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction. The code applies to charcoal grills, LP-gas grills, hibachis, smokers or any appliance which uses an open flame to cook. The ten (10) feet of clearance also applies to combustible materials such as pine straw, pine bark, and other combustible landscaping materials

Exceptions:

- One and two family dwellings
- Where **buildings, balconies and decks** are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

The NC Fire Code does provide regulations for the storage of LP Gas grills in the following section.

307.5.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices.

- LP-gas burners having a LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (1.14 kg) [nominally 1 pound of LP-gas capacity (0.454 kg)] shall **not** be **located** on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.
- This requirement pertains to the cylinder size of the grill. An average LP Gas grill has a cylinder size of 20lbs. **Storage of grills with this size cylinder are prohibited on combustible balconies, whether they are in use or not.**

Note: None regulated cooking and heating devices require the property owner's approval before use. Users are responsible for damages or injuries due to operation of non-regulated appliances.

Electric Grill Regulations

The Fire Code does not prohibit the use and/or storage of electric grills on balconies. However, due to the potential loss of life and extreme structural damage caused by improper cooking operations, the Fire Marshal's Office sets forth the following requirements concerning cooking operations utilizing electric grills: Property owners have the authority to restrict the use of all electric grills on combustible decks.

1. All grills must be UL Listed and used in accordance with its listing. This includes the appropriate clearance (3 Feet) to combustible materials and power supply.
2. Grill Operators are responsible for any damages that occur to any structure or causing personal injury to any person.
3. The grill must be kept clean and maintained for safe operation.
4. A fire extinguishing device such as an ABC fire extinguisher approved for use around electricity shall be maintained at the grill while in use.

5. All electrical cords shall be maintained, plugged into an approved grounded electrical receptacle and rated for the portable grill.
6. Extension cords shall be listed for outdoor use and unplugged after use.
7. All cords shall not pass through walls, doorways, windows or other types of pass-through and shall be unplugged after each use.
8. Electric smokers that use and create wood burning charred by products are prohibited

If you have any questions about these or any other fire codes or potential fire dangers, please do not hesitate to contact the Iredell County Fire Marshal's Office at (704) 878-3035

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!



Grilling Safety

The Iredell County Fire Marshal's Office provides these safety tips when grilling outdoors and in a safe location:

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three (3) foot **"safe zone"** around the grill.
- Utilize several long handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Propane grills

- If you have a propane grill, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell 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.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

A final word about cookouts: Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.