

Grilling Safety

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.

SAFETY TIPS

- »» Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- »» The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- »» Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- »» Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- »» Never leave your grill unattended.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- »» There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- »» If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- »» Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- »» There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- »» When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE GRILLS

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane 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 gas 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 move the grill.

FACTS

- ❗ Fire departments respond to an average of 7,900 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues each year, including 5,000 outside fires and 2,900 structure fires.
- ❗ June and July are the peak months for grill fires.
- ❗ Thirty-three percent (33%) of home grill structure fires start on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.



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