



Vermont Department of Public Safety **DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**

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CODE INFORMATION SHEET

Based on the 2015 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1

BARBECUE GRILLS



Everyone loves a barbecue, Gas and charcoal BBQ cooking grills have become an essential part of our lifestyle. Unfortunately, cooking on gas and charcoal grills can also be dangerous. The use and storage of solid fuel or propane cooking equipment on patios and balconies has resulted in a number of major fires in Vermont.

Before firing up the grill, there are several safety precautions and fire code requirements to keep in mind. By following these guidelines, you'll help prevent possible gas explosions or fires.

- Charcoal briquettes should be stored in a dry area because damp or wet charcoal is sensitive to spontaneous heating.
- The use and storage of barbecue grills should be restricted to the out-of-doors. Never use barbecue grills for home heating or indoor cooking.
- Charcoal briquettes should be allowed to cool naturally a safe distance from structures and combustible materials and then properly disposed of.
- Charcoal lighter fluid should be properly stored, away from living areas of the home.
- Propane cylinders should be stored outside at least 10 feet from building openings such as windows and doors.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Never bring the propane tank into the house.
- Charcoal and gas grills are sources of Carbon Monoxide. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you in an enclosed space.
- Use only LP containers equipped with an Overfill Protection Device.
- When finished using your propane barbecue always make sure that you not only turn off the barbecue but shut off the propane cylinder too
- Allow coals to cool for 48 hours before disposing. If you are not able to wait, douse coals with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers

Requirements of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code

NFPA 1: Sec10.10.6.1

For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within **10 ft (3 m)** of any structure.

NFPA 1: Sec10.10.5

Open fires and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. This person shall have a garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire-extinguishing equipment readily available for use.

NFPA 1: Sec 69.3.10.1.2.2 The use of cylinders indoors shall be limited to those conditions where operational requirements make the indoor use of cylinders necessary and location outside is impractical.

Special Notes:

Gas Grills located on decks - it is permissible to have a gas grill on a deck provided the grill is located 10 feet or more from the structure and the deck has an independent set of stairs leading to ground level.

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LP Gas Container Safety

Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane, used in gas grills, is highly flammable.

- Consumers should use caution when storing LP gas containers. Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors. Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- To avoid accidents while transporting LP gas containers, consumers should transport the container in a secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Consumers should use extreme caution and always follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting LP gas containers.



Requirements of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code

NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code Sec 8.3.5 Storage within Residential Buildings.

Storage of cylinders within a residential building, including the basement or any storage area in a common basement of a multiple-family building and attached or detached garages, shall be limited to cylinders each with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb(1.2 kg) and shall not exceed 5.4 lb (2.4 kg) aggregate water capacity per each living space unit.

What to do if you smell gas

If you think you smell propane in your home, camper, RV or the area around any gas equipment, or if a gas alarm signals the presence of propane, you should IMMEDIATELY follow these suggestions:

- Extinguish all smoking materials and any other open flames or sources of ignition. Everyone should vacate the building, vehicle or area.
- Move away without using any electric switches, appliances, thermostats, or telephones.
- Close the gas shutoff valve on the propane tank or cylinder.
- Call your propane supplier and your local fire department from a cellular telephone or a neighbor's telephone.
- Even if you do not continue to smell propane, do not open or turn on the propane supply valve. Do not re-enter the building, vehicle or area. Let a qualified propane service technician and/or emergency personnel check for escaped propane.
- Have a properly trained propane service technician repair the leak. The propane service technician or emergency responder needs to determine that the leak situation has been fully resolved. The propane service technician should check all of your gas appliances and re-light any appliance pilots.
- Return to the building, camper, RV or area only when the service or emergency technician indicates it is safe to do so.