

Barbeque Grills in Multi-family Housing



While not mandatory, Minneapolis Fire Inspections Services recommends best practices and safety tips for barbeques on balconies, terraces, or patios based on [Appendix K](#) of the Minnesota State Fire Code.

- The use of solid fuel (charcoal briquette) barbeque grills on balconies, terraces, or patios is at the discretion of building management, associations, and owners.
- Electric grills should be hardwired or directly plugged into an approved receptacle and securely fastened to prevent tipping. Electric grills should be a minimum of 18 inches from combustible materials unless designed for lesser clearances.
- Natural gas grills should be directly plumbed to the building's natural gas supply and have a shutoff within six feet of the appliance. Liquefied petroleum (LP) gas-fired grills or similar devices are limited to one (1) pound cylinders and should be used safely—not less than 15 feet from any structure.
- Have an approved, charged fire extinguisher in proximity, and know how to operate it.
- When cooking, grills should be constantly attended, and lids should be closed.
- Keep matches, lighters, and combustible liquids secured and out of the reach of children.
- Building owners, management, and associations of multi-family dwellings should notify their tenants in writing of best practice policies at the time the tenant signs and/or renews their lease.
- It is strongly recommended that liquefied petroleum (LP) cylinders not be stored inside buildings or on balconies. If a cylinder leaks or vents, flammable vapors may accumulate in buildings.

For more information about barbeque grill best practices, please visit minneapolismn.gov/regservices/fire/fis_policies or call 612.673.3000.