

OUTDOOR BARBECUING & GRILLING REQUIREMENTS



**Town of Brighton
Office of the Fire Marshal**

MAY 2020

Outdoor Barbecuing & Grilling Requirements

Town of Brighton residents are reminded that the New York State Fire Code section 308.1.4 specifically states: "Charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction."

Exceptions include one and two-family dwellings and balconies or decks that are protected by an automatic sprinkler system."

The Fire Code of New York State also regulates LP Gas fueled grills in section 308.1.4 stating: "LP-gas burners having a LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound (0.45kg) LP-gas capacity) shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction." Exceptions include one and two-family dwellings.

The rule does not apply to noncombustible construction such as concrete or steel or balconies protected by automatic fire sprinklers.

This section contains a strict prohibition on the use of charcoal-burning grills and other open-flame cooking devices in the locations described. Its intent is to mitigate the potential for hot embers to fall from the firebox of the cooking device and ignite a combustible surface, such as a wooden balcony or deck. The 10- foot (3048 mm) separation also reduces the likelihood that fire-starting or cooking flare-ups will come in contact with combustible wall construction that is easily ignited.

What does this mean?

Gas and charcoal barbecues are prohibited on decks and balconies in multiple dwellings.

The Fire Code of New York State 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 Town of Brighton Office of the Fire Marshal sets forth the following requirements concerning cooking operations utilizing electric grills:

1. All grills must be test and listed by an approved testing laboratory and used in accordance with its listing. This includes the appropriate clearance to combustible materials and power supply.
2. The grill must be kept clean and maintained for safe operation.
3. A fire extinguishing device such as an ABC fire extinguisher approved for use around electricity shall be maintained at the grill while in use.
4. All electrical cords shall be maintained, plugged into an approved grounded electrical receptacle and rated for the portable grill.
5. Extension cords shall be listed for outdoor use and unplugged after use.
6. All cords shall not pass through walls, doorways, windows or other types of pass-through and be unplugged after each use.



REMEMBER...

- If grilling on a combustible apartment balcony, use an electric grill.
- Keep children away from grilling area.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use grilling tools that give the chef plenty of clearance from heat.
- Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Allow the grill to cool before moving it.
- Place on a non-combustible tray.
- Inspect the grill for structural stability and rust; the stand, firebox, grill, and top.
- Make sure any lighter fluid has a safe place to be stored, preferably in a cabinet in a garage or shed.
- Make sure charcoal is stored in a dry location.
- Inspect the valves, burner, and hoses for rust, rot holes, or damage. Squirrels have been known to eat through rubber hoses and wasp can block the valves.



Grilling by the numbers

- In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills
- July is the peak month for grill fires (17%), including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by May, June and August
- A failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one –fifth of all grill structure fires (19%). In 17%, something that could catch fire was too close to the grill
- Leaks or breaks were the factor in 11% of grill structure fires and 23% of outside and unclassified grill fires
- Gas grills contribute to a higher number of home fires overall than their charcoal counterparts

