



KERNERSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Marshal's Office

Post Office Drawer 728 • Kernersville, North Carolina 27285-0728

USE AND STORAGE OF ELECTRICAL, CHARCOAL AND LP GAS GRILLS ON APARTMENT EXTERIOR BALCONIES

Introduction

Maintaining a safe environment from the threat of fire or injury for all occupants of the Town of Kernersville is a primary function and goal of the Fire Marshal's Office. The use of charcoal, LP Gas and electric grills on, under and in combustible construction can potentially lead to injuries and fires.

This document is intended to provide information concerning the use and storage of exterior residential cooking devices (grills, smokers, etc.) on, under and in exterior balconies of residential apartment building and other multifamily dwellings. The provisions listed in this document do not apply to single family dwellings and duplex apartment/town homes.

North Carolina Fire Code Regulations

The North Carolina Fire Code prohibits the use of open flame cooking devices in the following sections:

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.

Exceptions:

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

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.

The Code does provide guidelines 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) [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity] 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 of cylinder are prohibited on combustible balconies, whether they are in use or not.

Violations of these Fire Code regulations are punishable by the issuance of a minimum \$100 dollar fine per occurrence.

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 Kernersville Fire Marshal's Office sets forth the following requirements concerning cooking operations utilizing electric grills:

1. All grills must be UL Listed 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.

Violations of these requirements are a violation of Fire Code Section 112 and are punishable by a fine of \$100 dollars per occurrence.

112.1 Fire Hazard.

No person shall knowingly maintain a fire hazard.

If you have any questions about these or any other fire codes or potential fire dangers, please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (336)996-6791.