



CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
FIRE • POLICE • SHERIFF
9-1-1 • COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
CRIME PREVENTION & CONTROL • SAFE CITY

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TO: Managers, Owners and Occupants of Multi-family Dwellings within the City and County of Denver

FROM: Denver Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division

RE: **BARBECUES, PROPANE AND HEAT-PRODUCING DEVICES ON BALCONIES**

The Fire Code of the City and County of Denver contains regulations for the use of barbecues on balconies, patios, and decks of residential structures having more than two (2) dwelling units. These include apartments, condominiums and townhouses.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG, or propane), charcoal and wood fuels are included in the prohibition. The prohibition against barbecue units on balconies comes from the potential for hot embers to fall from the firebox of the cooking device and ignite a combustible surface. The 10-foot separation required by the fire code reduces the likelihood that fire-starting or cooking flare-ups will come into contact with combustible wall construction, which is easily ignited. LPG cannot be carried through a building since, if there is an accidental release, the heavier-than-air LPG vapors will remain at floor level and can reach an open flame, such as a hot water heater and/or furnace heating elements, and an explosion can result.

The following are the exact code requirements per Denver Fire Code:

101.3 Intent. The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements, consistent with nationally recognized good practice, for providing a reasonable level of occupant and pedestrian fire- and life-safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, production, use, and handling of dangerous and hazardous materials, substances, and devices, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

Section 308.1.4 – Open Flame Devices.

No gas-fired grills, charcoal grills 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 feet (3 m) of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. One and 2 family dwellings.
2. LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454kg) LP-gas capacity]. Two extra 1 pound LP-gas containers may be stored on the balcony.
3. Listed natural gas appliances shall be permitted on balconies when installed in accordance with the **International Fuel Gas Code** and supplied by the building's natural gas system.
4. Listed electric ranges, grills or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted.