



With more people using barbecue grills that ever before, it is important to remember that anytime you cook with fire there is a chance of getting burned. Keep safety in mind when setting up, using, and cleaning up after grilling outdoors.

Setting Up

Always read the owner's manual before using your grill and follow the assembly guidelines and safety procedures.

Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in an enclosed area because carbon monoxide, a gas produced when grilling, is deadly and can accumulate to dangerous levels in your home.

Set up your grill in an open area at least 10 feet away from buildings, overhead combustible surfaces, dry leaves, and brush.

Before using your grill make sure all parts are firmly in place and the grill is on a flat surface.

Fueling

Inspect your propane grill to make certain all connections are tight before turning on the gas. Spray soapy water on all gas connections and supply lines. If you see soapy bubbles, turn off the tank and try reconnecting or have the leaking fuel lines repaired before using. If you have a charcoal grill, be sure to purchase and use the proper starter fluid as recommended by the manufacturer. Apply starter fluid directly to the coals and let it soak into the coals for a minute before lighting. If the coals start to die out, fan them to feed the flame. Do not add lighter fluid to an already lit fire.

During Use

From the time you light the barbecue until you are finished cooking, stay with the grill.

Do not leave starter fluid, lighters, or matches within the reach of children.

Use the proper tools. Long handled barbecue utensils and flame retardant mitts will prevent burns from heat and flame.

Cleaning up

Keep an eye on the grill, even after you have finished cooking.

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 of them. If you are not able to wait, douse coals with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the coals are cool. Never place coals in plastic, paper, or wooden containers. Use a metal container with a tight fitting lid to store your coals.

Apartment and Condominiums

The use of barbecues in apartments, condominiums, and single family homes is not regulated by current Washington State Law. The Bellevue Fire Department recommends the use of one pound propane cylinders as the least hazardous fuel source, particularly on decks of multi-family residences.

However, apartment building owners and condominium associations, through lease agreements and owner's association rules, may still prohibit or restrict the use of barbecues.

For More Information Contact

Bellevue Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
425-452-6872
www.bellevuewa.gov