

City of Eden Prairie

Fire Prevention Bureau STATEMENT OF POLICY



Policy #: 005	Subject of Policy: Requirements for Barbecue Grills		
Approved By: Allen M. Nelson	Title: Fire Marshal	Revised Date: 4/3/2008	

Requirements for Barbecue Grills

The City of Eden Prairie regulates barbecue grills in multiple dwellings by ordinance. The grill provisions are the same as the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code. In Eden Prairie, these regulations are enforced only in vertically stacked units.

Section 1 – Ordinance Regulating Grills

The ordinance reads as follows:

K. Amendment to Appendix II-K – FIRES OR BARBECUES ON BALCONIES OR PATIOS.

1. Sec. 1 – OPEN FLAME AND FUEL STORAGE PROHIBITED
shall read as follows:

1.1 Open Flame Prohibited. In any structure containing three or more dwelling units, with at least two vertically stacked, no person shall kindle, maintain, or cause any fire or open flame on any balcony above ground level, or on any ground floor patio within 15 feet of the structure.

1.2 Fuel Storage Prohibited. No person shall store or use any fuel, barbecue, torch, or other similar heating or lighting chemical or device in the locations designated in Sec. 1.1.

Exception: Listed electric or gas-fired barbecue grills that are permanently mounted and wired or plumbed to the building's gas supply or electrical system and that maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches on all sides, unless listed for lesser clearances, may be installed on balconies and patios when approved by the chief.

Section 2 – Definitions

Vertically Stacked Units – This includes all apartment buildings. Town homes are only included if there are units independent of each other that are located with one on top of another. Row town homes and “quads” are not included.

Listed Electric Barbecue Grill – These are grills that cook with an electrically powered heating element that are designed to be hard wired into the building electrical system. The grill must be listed by a recognized national testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.).

Listed gas-fired barbecue grill – These are grills that operate using natural gas as a fuel. They are designed to be installed permanently and are connected to the building’s natural gas system. The grill must be listed by a recognized national testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) or American Gas Association (AGA).

Section 3 – Enforcement

Violation of these regulations is a misdemeanor punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 90 days. These regulations are enforced by the City of Eden Prairie. The City expects apartment management and town home associations to advise all residents of this policy and to take steps to ensure compliance.

Section 4 – Installation of Grills

Electric or natural gas grills can be installed as noted above. These grills must be installed permanently by being fastened in place and meet the clearance requirements in the owner’s manual. A permit must be obtained before installation. The connections must be done by a licensed electrician or gas fitter.

NOTE: The Minnesota Uniform Fire Code, in Section (NFPA) 58-8.3.5 restricts storage of LP gas cylinders in garages and buildings. Standard 20 lb. grill tanks are not allowed to be stored in garages or buildings of multiple dwelling units. Individuals that wish to store the **grill only, without the LP cylinder**, may do so in detached garages of regulated multiple dwellings.

If you have any questions please contact the Fire Marshal at (952) 949-8356 or the Fire Inspector at (952) 949-8335.