



Plano Fire-Rescue

BBQ Grills in Multifamily Complexes

Q. Why can't I store or use my grill on my apartment balcony?

A. Grilling and storage are allowed on fire sprinkled balconies with permission from the property management. The code has always prohibited grilling on non-fire sprinkled balconies. The 2018 International Fire Code has been adopted with the North Texas Council of Governments amendments which eliminate storage and use of grills on balconies. It has been Plano's experience that grills stored on balconies end up being used on balconies.

The number one cause of fire in the Plano and the U.S. are related incidents. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 8,600 residential fires involving grills occur each year in the U.S.

The following ordinances and guidelines have been adopted by the City of Plano for storage and use of open flame cooking devices on balconies in multifamily dwellings with three or more living units.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1-2

308.1.4. Open-flame cooking devices. Open-flame cooking devices, charcoal grills, and other similar devices used for cooking shall not be located or used on combustible balconies, decks, or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings, except that LP-gas containers are limited to a water capacity not greater than 50 pounds (22.68 kg) [nominal 20 pound (9.08 kg) LP-gas capacity] with an aggregate LP-gas capacity not to exceed 100 lbs (5 containers).
2. Where buildings, balconies, and decks are protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system, except that LP-gas containers are limited to a water capacity not greater than 50 pounds (22.68 kg) [nominal 20 pound (9.08 kg) LP-gas capacity], with an aggregate LP-gas capacity not to exceed 40 lbs. (2 containers).

[For a list of Grilling Tips, please click here.](#)