

Barbecues on Balconies

While there are no municipal bylaws in Thunder Bay regarding barbecues on balconies, the Propane Storage and Handling Code (CAN/CSA-B149.2-05) regulates the storage, handling and transfer of propane and the installation of appliances and equipment.

Propane fuelled barbecues are regulated by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA). The TSSA has provided the following requirements regarding propane barbecues:

- Barbecues are approved for outdoor use only.
- Propane cylinders must be safely stored and transported.
- Propane cylinders are not to be stored inside any structure.
- Always transport and store cylinders in an upright position.
- Barbecuing on balconies of apartment building or condominium apartments may be prohibited by lease agreements of the Condominium Act (as the owner or agent for the property, building owners, property managers and Condominium Corporations have the legal authority to prohibit barbecuing on the property).
- Propane cylinders are to be transported in a service elevator or, when there are no service elevators, the person must use the passenger elevator alone to transport the cylinder.
- Barbecues must be kept clear of all combustible materials as listed on the barbecue rating plate or certified instructions or must be a minimum of one metre (three feet) from combustible materials.
- Propane cylinder relief valves must be at least one metre (three feet) horizontally from any building opening below it (including doors and windows): three metres (10 feet) horizontally from the air intake of any appliance or air-moving equipment: and three metres (10 feet) from any source of ignition.

Thunder Bay Fire Rescue and safety experts with TSSA recommend the following:

- Carefully inspect your barbecue to ensure that burner is free of obstructions, rust, or debris.
- Replace any damaged parts with the appropriate replacement parts.
- Test all gas connections for leaks with a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap.
- Do not leave the barbecue unattended when in use.

For persons living in the apartment building and condominium apartments, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue recommends the use of electric barbecues bearing the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approval. Electric barbecues are a safe alternative to propane and charcoal barbecues.

Barbecuing on decks of single family and attached dwelling units follow the same restrictions provided below above. Barbecuing in attached garages is prohibited because an attached garage with interior access to a home is considered part of the home and barbecues are approved for outdoor use only.

Homeowners are further advised to consider the dangers to life safety presented from carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon Monoxide is a tasteless, colourless, and odourless, poisonous gas often referred to as 'the silent killer'. Propane and charcoal fuelled barbecues produce carbon monoxide and, therefore, must be operated outdoor.

Additional information regarding safe barbecuing practices can be found on the TSSA website:
www.tssa.org