

Grilling Safety

Summers mean backyard grilling – safely!

It's time to put aside the memories of last winter's bitter cold and move on to some summer fun here in Fort Wayne and surrounding lake areas.

Just like hamburgers and hot dogs, a sizzling grill is a symbol of summer, and grilling isn't just about the great food. Backyard barbecues often create treasured memories with friends and family.

Keep in mind, however, that when you grill, you're literally playing with fire. Thousands of residents each year learn this the hard way, suffering damage to their homes or even serious injuries in grilling accidents.

There's good news, though: You can prevent grilling accidents by taking some simple precautions. The tips below can help ensure you cook only your burgers — and not your house — the next time you fire up the grill.



NOTE: Fort Wayne City Code regarding grills at Apartments:

The code states this;

A **barbeque pit or grill** is a stationary or portable device, with either electric, gas or charcoal fuel, which is used for the preparation of food and is allowed by code,

but not within or on balconies of any apartment complex.

TIPS FOR ALL GRILLS

****Please remember to follow all the manufacturers' specifications, directions and any and all guidelines recommended by the manufacturer.***

Your grill, whether gas or charcoal, should be on a level surface outdoors, away from anything that could be ignited by flames (bushes, fences, etc.).

NEVER use a grill indoors. Odorless carbon monoxide fumes could kill you.

Keep your grill clean and well-maintained. Check parts regularly to determine if replacements are needed.

Never leave a hot grill unattended or allow children or pets near it.

CHARCOAL GRILL TIPS

From Kingsford.com

Do not add lighter fluid directly to hot coals. The flame could travel up the stream of fluid and burn you.

Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire.

Use flame-retardant mitts and long-handled barbecue tongs, as coals can reach up to 1,000 degrees.

To dispose of coals, allow the ashes to cool for at least 48 hours before disposal in a non-combustible container. If you cannot wait 48 hours, carefully place coals individually in a can of sand or bucket of water.

GAS GRILL TIPS

From the National Fire Protection Association

Check your grill's hoses for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If you have a leak, and it will not stop after the grill and gas is turned off, call the fire department. If the leak stops when the grill and gas are turned off, have your grill serviced by a professional.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Do not keep a filled propane tank in a hot car or trunk. When getting containers refilled, make that your last stop before going home.

Store propane tanks in an upright position, and never indoors.

CAMP FIRES AND FIRE PITS

Fire Pits have become increasingly popular in the area. Fort Wayne does have a city ordinance regarding the use of camp fires and fire pits. For more information, see the Fort Wayne Fire Department website or go to <http://fortwaynefiredepartment.org/code-enforcement/recreational-camp-fires>

From all of us at INTEGRITY INSURANCE, Happy Grilling, and Stay Safe this summer!