

BALCONY BARBECUING

The Fire Code does not specifically prohibit balcony barbecues. However, it is not a good practice due to the smoke, odour and potential fire hazard associated with a fuel fired appliance on a small confined area.

In the event of fire damage resulting from the use of a barbecue, the owner of the unit or the appliance may face some liability for resultant damage under the provisions of Division B Article 2.1.2.2 of the Ontario Fire Code, which states “*Activities that create a hazard and that are not allowed for in the original design shall not be carried out in a building unless **approved** provisions are made to control the hazard*”.

The word **approved** means approved by the Chief Fire Official. Please be advised that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services does not give approval for balcony propane or charcoal barbecuing due to the potential for fire spread and possible propane gas leakage.

The Propane Storage and Handling Code CSA-B149.2-00 outlines specific requirements for the use and storage of propane cylinders. The following items are highlights of the Code that pertain to this situation:

- a) Cylinders are to be stored outside a minimum of (1m) away from any building opening and (3m) away from any mechanical air intake.
- b) Cylinders are not allowed to be transported inside apartment/condominium buildings up to a balcony.
- c) Cylinders are to be stored a minimum of (3m) on a horizontal plane from any source of ignition.

Also, with respect to propane barbecues, 4.2.4.4 of the Fire Code states “*Flammable liquids and combustible liquids shall not be stored on exterior balconies*”. Propane by composition is LPG – a liquefied petroleum gas, which is a liquid.

Barbecuing itself is not mentioned in the Fire Code, but all of the processes and needs in order to barbecue are either prohibited or require a large area and purpose built equipment to actually perform the task of barbecuing.

For private companies, we suggest incorporating a declaration and/or rules prohibiting balcony barbecuing; and to possibly have barbecues available as a common element on the ground floor area that meets all of the requirements outlined.