

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



Loss Prevention
Program

By Red River Mutual

BBQ & OUTDOOR KITCHEN SAFETY

Follow these easy pointers to make grilling safer:

- Keep BBQ grills on a level surface, 2-3 feet away from the house, garage and, most importantly, children and pets. When grilling on your patio, make sure that all furniture and accessories are far from the grill. On balconies, it is always safer to move festivities to available lawn space. Never grill inside the home or garage, even if it is raining.

- Never light a propane or natural gas BBQ with the lid closed - it should always be open. Gases can build up inside the closed area and explode if the time between turning the gas on and attempting to light the grill is too long. If you aren't able to get the barbecue lit the first few tries, the gas should be turned off and let to dissipate for a moment before you attempt to light it again.



- Always store gas cylinders outside and away from your house, and be sure the valves are turned off when not in use. Check the tubes regularly for cracking, brittleness and leaks in the connections. To determine if there is a leak, simply pour soapy water over the line with the gas valve turned open. If gas were escaping, bubbles would appear. Should you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't use the grill until the leak is repaired.

- Your BBQ will be generating high temperatures, so keep it covered whenever possible. Keep lighted cigarettes, matches and open flames away from the grill, and move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and grease. Use a can to catch excess grease.

- Make certain your BBQ is kept at least 2-3 feet away from wood or vinyl siding. Placing the grill too close to your home, especially one with vinyl siding, can result in melting or burning, or even a fire. Also, keep in mind that while vinyl siding and composite decking have a higher "burn point" than wood, it's also easier for these materials to melt and discolor, which can result in a costly claim for property damage.

- For charcoal grills, use only starter fluids designed for your grill and never use gasoline. Limit the amount of fluid used. If the fire is too low, use dry kindling and add more charcoal if necessary. To avoid a flash fire - a fire that spreads rapidly through the vapors of an ignitable liquid - never add more liquid fuel to a lighted grill.

- When using bamboo or wood skewers, soak them in cool water prior to use so they won't ignite on the grill.

- Never allow burned coals to smolder in any container on a wooden deck, and make sure to soak your coals before disposing of them by wrapping them in heavy-duty aluminum foil and putting them in a non-combustible container away from the house.

- After grilling, make sure the BBQ is turned off and the burner flames are out. Also make sure the gas supply is turned off and the lid is closed.

Outdoor Kitchen Installation Safety

Over the past years, homeowners have been expanding their cooking and entertaining area to include back yards and gardens. Outdoor kitchens are now one of the most popular upgrades for many neighborhoods. These additions to the home can be a large investment, so working with an experienced designer and contractor will help to ensure your outdoor kitchen is built for safety and long-term enjoyment.



- Understand the manufacturer's installation instructions for all cooking appliances before designing begins. Most appliances require 2-3 feet of clearance from any combustible materials, including cabinets, counter tops, fencing, pergolas and the side of your home. Many cooking appliances are not intended to be installed underneath a covered area.
- Ensure cooking appliances are certified for use in Canada and display a CSA or ULC label.
- Wood burning fireplaces and pizza ovens should be installed according to the manufacturer's installation instructions and local bylaw requirements. Most jurisdictions require open fires to be at least 3 meters (10 ft.) from any combustible buildings, structures, fences, trees and overhead wires. Wood, charcoal and fire starter combustibles must be located a minimum of 4 feet away from a wood heat appliance. Empty used ashes only when they have fully cooled, and store them in an enclosed metal receptacle for proper disposal.

See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

While the safety recommendations in this report are based on apparent and obvious conditions that were found at the time of inspection, the report does not purport to identify all hazards or guarantee compliance with any standards, codes, ordinances or regulations. It is not legal or expert advice, and should not be used in place of consultation with appropriate professionals. Any person relying on this information does so entirely at their own risk. Red River Mutual denies all responsibility for any liability, loss, injury or risk which is incurred as a direct or indirect result of the use of any of the recommendations in this report.