

# BBQ



## GRILL SAFETY FACT SHEET

### Permits Required?

If you are planning on utilizing a barbecue for a function, you may be required to obtain a Fire Safety Permit for the activity.

- If you are utilizing a fixed barbecue grill located near your residence hall to cook a meal for yourself or roommates, then a permit would not be required. However, you must follow all of the applicable safety requirements below.
- If you are cooking as part of an organized event, or for a gathering of more than the members of just yourself or your roommates, then a permit IS required. The permit application is available at: [http://rues.rutgers.edu/ES\\_files/FireSafetyPermitApplication2014.pdf](http://rues.rutgers.edu/ES_files/FireSafetyPermitApplication2014.pdf) and must be submitted at least seven (7) days prior to the event.

### General Grilling Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the building, deck railings and out from under leaves and overhanging branches. Relevant fire codes require a minimum of 20ft separation from the grill and any structures.
- When grilling is complete, the grill must be stored in a location not less than 20 feet from a structure.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

**Report any unwanted fires to 9-1-1 immediately,  
even if you extinguish the fire**



## General Grilling Tips (continued)

- Regardless of a permitted use or social use, you must ensure that you have the proper fire safety equipment available:
  - For propane grills, you must have an approved fire extinguisher with the grill. The extinguisher CANNOT be taken from any building. You can contact Residence Life to obtain a spare extinguisher for your event.
  - For charcoal, you must have an approved fire extinguisher with the grill or an approved water source (garden hose) available. The extinguisher CANNOT be taken from any building. You can contact Residence Life to obtain a spare extinguisher for your event.

## Before you use your grill:

- Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose. (<https://youtu.be/mpDhUssEgP0>)
- Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks. To do that:
  - Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose using a brush or spray bottle.
  - Turn the propane tank on. If there is a gas leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose (big enough to see).
  - If there are no bubbles, your grill is safe to use.
- If there are bubbles, turn off the tank and check connections, then have your grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department immediately.

## When the grill is on:

- As you are cooking, if you smell gas, turn off the gas tank and burners.
- If the leak stops immediately, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the smell continues, move away from the grill, do not move it, and call the fire department immediately.

## Charcoal grills:

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Charcoal and lighter fluid is not permitted to be stored in any University building.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in an approved metal container.
  - Even though the coals may appear cool, they can still remain hot. Empty coals into a metal container and soak with water. Leave the container away from combustible materials (building, mulch, trash, etc.) and allow to soak for at least 6 to 12 hours before disposing of the ash. NEVER place coals directly into the trash or dump into mulch or other combustible areas.

Grill Safety Video: <https://youtu.be/65RCHLNiKa8>

Videos and information obtained from NFPA:

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/grilling/grilling-safety-tips>



**If you have any questions, please contact the Rutgers Emergency Services Fire Safety Bureau at 848-932-4800 or via email at [es@aps.rutgers.edu](mailto:es@aps.rutgers.edu)**

