



Grills & Fire Code Requirements

Play it safe! – Please no charcoal or gas grills on your balconies.

Cooking on Balconies

The Florida Fire Prevention Code prohibits any cooking on a balcony of an apartment or condominium. The only exception is for **electrical** cooking appliances such as electric ranges or electric grills.

Storage of L.P. Gas or Gas Grills

The Florida Fire Prevention Code also prohibits the storage or use of L.P. gas in quantities greater than 1 pound above the first floor in any apartment or condominium. Therefore, L.P. gas grills cannot be stored on a balcony. It is important to note that L.P. gas cylinders cannot be stored inside the residential unit or anywhere above the first floor.

The specific code sections are as follows:

NFPA 1:10.11.7 For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10 ft (3 m) of any structure. Listed electric ranges, grills, or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted. (Per NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code, Florida 2005 Edition)

NFPA 1: 69.3.3.9.2 Cylinders having water capacities greater than 2.7 lb (1 kg) [nominal 1 lb (0.5 kg) LP-Gas capacity] shall not be located on balconies above the first floor that are attached to a multiple family dwelling of three or more living units located one above the other.

Enforcement action will be taken as described below:

- The local enforcement procedures and penalties for failure to comply with the Florida Fire Prevention Code, or the Uniform Fire Safety Standards, are found in St. Johns County Ordinance #93-6.
- The ordinance states that violators of the fire code may be prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors, and upon conviction they may be punished by a **fine** not to exceed **\$500.00** or by **imprisonment** in the County Jail not to exceed **60 days**, or both.
- The ordinance also states that fire inspectors may issue civil citations to violators. A **separate citation may be given for each violation, and each day** that a violation continues is a separate offense. If the citation is not contested the penalty is \$50.00, plus court costs of \$8.00. If a violator chooses to contest the citation and is convicted, the judge may impose a penalty up to \$500.00 plus court costs for each violation.

The County also has other enforcement options, including but not limited to seeking a mandatory injunction from a court.