



Grills & Fire Code Requirements

Play it safe! – 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 the use of electric grills is now permitted provided that they comply with the following:**

NFPA 1:10.10.6.1.1 – Listed electric portable, tabletop grills, not to exceed 200 square inches of cooking surface, or other similar apparatus shall be permitted. Use or kindling of Gas Grills is still prohibited on any balcony, under any overhang, or within 10 feet of any structure as in previous code editions.

Storage of Grills

The Florida Fire Prevention Code prohibits the storage of any grill on a balcony of an apartment or condominium.

The specific code sections are as follows:

NFPA 1:10.10.6.1 (2015): For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose shall be used or kindled on any balcony, under any overhanging portion, or within 10 ft (3 m) of any structure.

NFPA 1:10.10.6.1.1 (2015): Listed electric, tabletop grills, not to exceed 200 square inches of cooking surface, or other similar apparatus shall be permitted.

NFPA 1:10.10.6.2 (2015): For other than one-and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony.

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 #16-29.
- 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 \$75.00, plus court costs. 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.