



# Corona Fire Department

## Open Flame Cooking Devices in Multi-Family Dwellings Guideline per 2022 California Fire Code

### PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary to meet the requirements to the use and storage of open flame cooking devices on balconies, patios, and decks of multiple unit residences. These requirements are prescribed in 2022 California Fire Code and NFPA 58.

### SCOPE

The provisions of the guideline apply to the use, handling, and storage of open-flame cooking devices and fuels, in the multiple use residences in the City of Corona. These requirements shall apply to hotels, motels, apartments, residential condominiums, and buildings containing three (3) or more dwelling units. These requirements shall not apply to buildings that are classified as single-family dwellings, single-family detached condominiums or town homes with property lines between units, or any building which contains not more than two (2) dwelling units intended for residential purposes.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Combustible Construction

Wood or vinyl siding, wood decking, and fabric awnings are examples of combustible construction. For the purpose of these regulations, stucco covered walls/ceilings, concrete or tiled floors, and wood railings facing the exterior (not between units) are considered to be non-combustible construction. Note that certain composite deck and railing materials may also be considered non-combustible for the purpose of these regulations.

#### LP-Gas (Liquified Petroleum Gas)

Any material having a vapor pressure not exceeding that allowed for commercial propane that is composed predominantly of the following hydrocarbons, either by themselves or as mixtures: propane, propylene, butane, and butylene.

#### LPG Fueled Cooking Devices

Any device or appliance including but not limited to, stoves, burners, smokers, and barbeques, that are fueled by LP-Gas.

#### Open-Flame Cooking Device

Any device or appliance including but not limited to, stoves, burners, smokers, and barbeques, that are fueled by combustible solids; including but not limited to charcoal, woods and similar materials.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Open Flame Cooking Devices

1. Open-flame cooking devices such a charcoal or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) burners shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

#### Exceptions:

1. Open-flame cooking devices used at one- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies, and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
3. LPG cooking devices having an LPG container with a water capacity not greater than two and one half (2.5) pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LPG capacity]. (CFC 308.1.4)



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### B. Summary of Code Requirements

1. It is not acceptable to operate a charcoal barbecue unit on a combustible balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction, including the surrounding walls and overhang. It is acceptable to operate such a barbecue on a balcony if the balcony, deck, overhang, and adjacent walls are of non-combustible construction, or if the balcony is protected overhead by an automatic fire sprinkler system. It is okay to store a charcoal barbecue unit on a combustible balcony when not in use only if it has the ability to be used 10 feet away.
2. It is not acceptable to store or operate an LPG barbecue with a LPG fuel container size greater than 1 pound LPG capacity on a combustible balcony or within 10 feet of combustible construction, including the surrounding walls and overhang. It is acceptable to store or operate such a barbecue on a balcony if the balcony, deck, overhang, and adjacent walls are of non-combustible construction, or if the balcony, deck, or overhang is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.
3. You should always check first with your building manager/owner since the property may have more restrictive rules regarding barbecues and open-flame cooking devices.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When Did These New Requirements Become Effective?
  - a. January 1, 2008. Adoption of the current California Fire Code was effective January 1, 2017.
2. Can Electric Barbecues be Used on Combustible Balconies and Decks?
  - a. Yes. Electric cooking devices are permitted but must comply with electrical requirements of CFC 603.
3. Are Natural Gas Fueled Barbecues Subject to the Same Regulations as LPG Fueled Units?
  - a. Yes. Natural gas fueled barbecues are prohibited according to CFC 308.1.4. However, for balconies, decks, overhangs, and adjacent walls of non-combustible construction, or if the balcony, deck, or overhang is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, they are not subject to the same restrictions since the fuel source does not need to be carried.
4. Can I Store My Charcoal Barbeque on My Combustible Balcony if I No Longer Use It?
  - a. Yes.
5. Can I Store My LPG Barbeque on My Combustible Balcony if I No Longer Use It?
  - a. Yes, if the fuel tank is removed. Note that the removed fuel tank cannot be stored on the balcony, within 10 feet of combustible construction, or inside any enclosed structure (i.e., inside the dwelling unit).
6. Can I Connect (Manifold) Multiple Small Camp Stove-Size LPG Containers to Use in Place of a Larger LPG Tank to Fuel My Barbeque?
  - a. No.
7. If I Install a Fire Sprinkler on My Balcony, Can I Use a Barbeque?
  - a. No. The entire building, not just the balcony area, requires a fire sprinkler system.
8. Can I Store Multiple Containers of the 1 Pound Size on My Balcony or In My Apartment?
  - a. No. The code requirement maximum of a total of 1 pound of LP-Gas.