

Grill Safety Tips



When the weather warms, you can practically smell the mouthwatering aroma of grilled hamburgers and hear the tempting sounds of steaks sizzling. But, before you fire up the grill and bring your senses to life, Erie Insurance offers the following tips for your gas and charcoal grill safety:

Gas grills

Propane is highly flammable, but can be used safely if proper measures are taken.

- **Carefully read all instructions and warnings prior to use.**
- **Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure that no sharp bends exist in the hose or tubing.**
- **Move gas hoses away from hot surfaces and dripping grease.**
- **Always keep propane cylinders upright.**
- **Never store a spare propane cylinder under or near the grill, or indoors.**
- **Never store or use flammable liquids near the grill.**
- **Do not use a gas grill indoors or in an enclosed environment. Never bring the propane cylinder into the house.**
- **When you fill or exchange your cylinder, have your supplier check for dents, damage, rust or leaks on the cylinder you will be transporting home.**

- **Never leave a filled propane cylinder in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, and may open the relief valve allowing gas to escape.**

Charcoal grills

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas, when it is burned. CO can accumulate in closed environments and reach toxic levels.

- **Carefully read all instructions and warnings prior to use.**
- **Charcoal should never be used indoors. Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, garages or campers. Every year about 17 people die as a result of CO fumes generated by charcoal being burned inside.**
- **Do not store charcoal grills indoors with freshly used coals. Charcoal produces CO fumes until it is completely extinguished.**
- **Only use starter fluid formulated for the purpose. Never use gasoline to start a charcoal fire.**

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