

Barbecue Safety Fact Sheet



Barbecues are a part of many Saskatchewan yards, but they come with the risk of fire, explosion or carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) offers these tips to help keep you safe.

Start by using and storing your barbecue in a non-combustible area of your home. This should be an area away from wooden fences, vinyl siding or anything that can burn. The space behind your barbecue is also an area where hot gases can escape, meaning it must be free of combustible materials.

If you live in an apartment or condo building, check with your building owner or property manager to make sure you're allowed to use your barbecue on your balcony.

To minimize the hazards your barbecue can produce, follow these steps before the start of the season:

1. **CLEAN** the burner ports with a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure they are free of dust, spider webs or other debris.
2. **CHECK** the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace it if it's cracked or damaged.
3. **TEST** leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection, replace the damaged parts and re-test.

Once the barbecue passes the safety checks, you are free to start cooking; follow these steps:

1. Open the hood.
2. Make sure grease has not built up on the burners or at the base of the barbecue.
3. Turn on the gas release valve on the tank.
4. Turn on the grill controls or heat settings.
5. Take a step back.
6. Push the igniter button.
7. If there is no igniter button, insert a long match or barbecue lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob.
8. If the burner does not ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the hood open, before repeating the procedure.
9. Never leave the barbecue unattended when in use.
10. After use, turn off the gas valve and burner controls. Allow the barbecue to cool completely before closing the cover.