



## **Top 9 Grilling Safety Tips for Summer**

Summer is synonymous with outdoor grilling, but it's essential to prioritize safety to ensure that fun doesn't turn into disaster. Grill fires can occur easily and spread rapidly, posing significant risks to both property and lives. To help you enjoy your summer barbecues safely, we've compiled nine crucial safety tips. By following these guidelines, you can protect your home, family, and guests while still enjoying the pleasures of outdoor cooking.

### **1. Grill Only in Outdoor Spaces**

While it might be convenient to set up your barbecue grill in your garage or on a covered balcony, it's crucial to remember that gas and charcoal grills are meant for outdoor use only. These grills require proper ventilation to prevent the buildup of dangerous gases. Combustible materials surrounding or hanging over the grill can easily catch fire, leading to potentially catastrophic consequences. Always ensure that your grill is placed in an open, outdoor area with plenty of ventilation.

### **2. Maintain Safe Distance from Structures**

Avoid placing your grill too close to your home or other structures. Heat from the grill can quickly ignite adjacent materials, leading to fires that can spread rapidly. It's recommended to keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any other combustible structures. This distance minimizes the risk of accidental fires and ensures a safer grilling environment for everyone.



### **3. Ensure a Stable Surface**

Set up your grill on a flat, level surface to prevent tipping and potential fires. Grills placed on slopes or uneven surfaces can easily become unstable, especially when cooking. A stable surface, such as a concrete pad, ensures that your grill remains level throughout the cooking process, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.

### **4. Check for Gas Leaks**

Before firing up your grill for the summer, inspect it for any gas leaks. Leaks in the gas lines can lead to a buildup of propane or natural gas inside the grill, posing a serious safety hazard. Use a soap and water solution to check for leaks, and ensure that all connections are tight and secure. Always open the lid of your barbecue before lighting it to allow any accumulated gas to dissipate safely.

### **5. Clean Your Grill Regularly**

Grease buildup on grill plates and in grease trays can act as fuel, leading to flare-ups and fires. Clean your grill after each use with a grill brush to remove any food residue and grease. Empty the grease tray regularly to prevent buildup and reduce the risk of fires during cooking. Regular cleaning not only improves the performance of your grill but also enhances safety for everyone involved.

### **6. Never Leave Your Grill Unattended**

Always stay vigilant when grilling and never leave your barbecue unattended while it's in



use. High heat and open flames pose significant fire hazards, and unattended grills can quickly escalate into dangerous situations. If you need to step away from the grill for any reason, ask another adult to monitor it in your absence. Prompt attention to any potential issues ensures a safer grilling experience for everyone.

## **7. Dress Appropriately**

When grilling, wear clothing that reduces the risk of accidents. Avoid loose-fitting clothing, long sleeves, and dangling accessories that can easily catch fire when near an open flame. Opt for fitted clothing and ensure that any apron strings are tied back and away from the front to prevent accidents. If clothing does catch fire, remember to stop, drop, and roll to extinguish the flames quickly and effectively.

## **8. Keep a Spray Bottle Handy**

Flare-ups are common during grilling, especially as fat drips from meat onto hot coals or flames. Keep a spray bottle filled with water nearby to quickly extinguish small fires before they escalate. A quick spray can help control flare-ups and prevent them from spreading, ensuring a safer grilling environment for everyone involved.

## **9. Have a Fire Extinguisher Nearby**

In case of a larger fire, having a fire extinguisher on hand is essential. Products like EZ Fire Spray are designed specifically for kitchen and outdoor grilling fires, offering a quick and effective way to extinguish flames. Ensure that your fire extinguisher is easily accessible and



everyone knows how to use it. Having the right firefighting equipment on hand can make all the difference in an emergency situation.

By following these nine grilling safety tips, you can enjoy your summer barbecues with peace of mind, knowing that you've taken the necessary precautions to protect your home, family, and guests. Prioritizing safety ensures that everyone can enjoy the pleasures of outdoor cooking without putting themselves or others at risk.

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