

ROCKY HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL P. GARRAHY
CHIEF



Tel: (860) 258-7605
Fax: (860) 258-7609

3050 Main Street
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067-3712

The Rocky Hill Fire Marshal's Office, in an effort to address questions pertaining to the use and storage of cooking devices on balconies of apartments and condominiums is offering the following synopsis of Code for your reference.

Cooking on Balconies

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Code prohibits any cooking on a balcony of an apartment or condominium.

Storage of Grills on Balconies

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Code prohibits any cooking devices to be stored on balconies.

The specific detailed code sections are as follows:

NEPA 1

10.11.6 Cooking Equipment

10.11.6.1. 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.

10.11.6.2 For other than one-and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, grill, or similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony.

69.5.3.5 Storage of cylinders within a residential building, including the basement or any storage area in a common basement storage area in multiple-family buildings and attached garages, shall be limited to cylinders each with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb. (1.2 kg) and shall not exceed 5.4 lb. (2.4 kg) aggregate water capacity for smaller cylinders per each living space unit.

2005 Connecticut Fire Safety Code

Chapter 31 Existing Apartment and Dormitory Buildings

31.1.1.3 All buildings containing three or more individual living units shall be classified as apartment buildings, except where the building and living unit arrangement is in accordance with items numbered (1) through (4) of this section, then the entire building shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter and the individual living units need only comply with the requirements for smoke alarms in section 31.3.4.5 and each living unit shall be treated as a single family home for the purposes of section 29-305 of the Connecticut General Statutes:

- (1) Residential buildings containing three or more individual living units, in which the living units are arranged so that no living unit is located either above or below another living unit; and
- (2) Each living unit has at least one independent exit, serving that unit only which leads directly to the exterior of the building in one of the following manners:
 - (a) an exit door opening directly to the street or yard at ground level; or
 - (b) an outside stair leads directly to the street or yard at ground level; or
 - (c) an interior stair that is part of the living unit served that leads directly to the street or yard at ground level; and
- (3) Each living unit is separated from the adjoining unit by vertical fire barriers having at least a 1-hr fire resistance rating. Such walls shall extend from the lowest floor slab to the underside of the highest roof deck and shall be continuous through all spaces below the living unit such as basements and crawl spaces and all areas above the living unit, such as attics or other concealed spaces; and
- (4) There are no spaces within the confines of the building's exterior perimeter walls that are subject to common occupant usage including, but not limited to, corridors, hallways, laundry rooms, furnace or utility rooms, storage areas or recreation areas.

The 2009 IRC (International Residential Code for One and Two-Family Dwellings) Defines a Townhouse as follows:

TOWNHOUSE. A single family *dwelling unit* constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof and with a *yard* or public way on at least two sides.

Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code

(NEW) Sec. 29-291a-1a. The Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code: Title and Administration

(a) The Regulations of the Department of Administrative Services, this section and sections 29-291a-2a to 29-291a-10a, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and their adopted standards, shall be known as the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code, hereinafter referred to as "the code" or "this code".

(1) Severability. If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

(2) Validity. In the event any part or provision of this code is held to be illegal or void, this shall not have the effect of making void or illegal any of the other parts or provisions hereof, which are determined to be legal; and it shall be presumed that this code would have been adopted without such illegal or invalid parts or provisions.

(b) This section and sections 29-291a-2a to 29-291a-10a, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be administered as provided in Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(c) The provisions of this section and sections 29-291a-2a to 29-291a-10a, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall not apply to any federal agency performing construction or operating on federally owned land or on leased land totally under the control of the federal government.

(d) The provisions of this section and sections 29-291a-2a to 29-291a-10a, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall not apply to detached one- and two family dwellings nor to multiple single-family dwellings attached side-by-side (townhouse) not more than three stories in height with each dwelling having a separate means of egress.