



VOORHEES TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Michael J. Wharton
Fire Official

June 2022

The Voorhees Township Fire Department, in regards to the safety and well being of the residents, would like to inform you of the New Jersey State Fire Code and Voorhees Township Ordinance relating to the use and storage of barbeques and decorative open-flame devices in town homes and multi-family dwellings.

If you are part of an Association, please contact the management office to comply with all rules and regulations they require.

These laws apply to **ALL** propane and charcoal grills and smokers. The use of electric grills and smokers are allowed, but we ask that they be used safely. The final code applies to "Tiki Torches" and any other type of flame producing decorative device such as candles and mosquito candles as an example. Any time these items are used, it should be done safely and a fire extinguisher should be readily available in case of a fire related emergency.

The codes are as follows:

Voorhees Township Ordinance 312-17

B. Barbeques. No person shall operate, use or maintain any open fire or any device commonly known as a "barbeque" in or on any apartment unit, porch, balcony, patio or any other private area of an apartment or multiple-family unit. The Fire Official may, upon application made, exempt any person from the revision of this section, provided that the request is made in writing and the Fire Official certifies that the procedures are safe in regard to fire protection and fire prevention standards, which standards are incorporated into this code.

(2) Applicability

- (a) This article applies to all outdoor burning and open burning in the Township of Voorhees.
 - (b) This article does not apply to grilling or cooking food using permanently installed and approved appliances.
 - (c) This article does not apply to burning for the purpose of generating heat in a stove, furnace, fireplace or other approved and properly installed heating device within a building used for human or animal habitation.
 - (d) This article does not apply to the use of propane, acetylene, natural gas, gasoline, or kerosene in an approved device intended for heating, construction, or maintenance activities; as such they are being utilized in accordance with their intended purpose in a safe manner.
- (3) (c) The patio wood-burning unit shall be located at least 15 feet from the nearest structure which is not on the same property as the patio wood-burning unit. The unit shall not be located less than **10 feet** from combustible structures on the same property or on any decks, porches and balconies.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 308.1.4: Open-flame cooking devices

Charcoal burners, other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated or stored on combustible balconies or decks or within 5 feet of combustible construction.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 308.1.4.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices:

LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity) shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Portable LP gas cooking equipment such as barbeque grills shall not be stored or used:

1. On any porch, balcony, or any other portion of a building;
2. Within any room or space of a building;
3. Within 5 feet (1524 mm) of any combustible exterior wall;
4. Within 5 feet (1524 mm), vertically or horizontally, of an opening in any wall;
5. Under any building overhang.

308.3.1 Open-flame decorative devices. Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid or solid fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.
 - a. **Exception:** Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
5. The flame shall be enclosed except where opening on the size are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where opening are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
6. Chimneys shall be made noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.
 - a. **Exception:** A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.
7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34.
9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area and away from possible contact with drapes, curtains or other combustibles.

The Voorhees Township Fire Department is concerned for the safety of the residents of Voorhees Township and we hope that you will help us in our endeavor.

Thank You for your cooperation.

Michael J. Wharton
Fire Official
Voorhees Township Fire Department
Bureau of Fire Prevention