

DRAFT as of 1/19/2021

Section 5.3.10 on Barbeque Grills, Smokers, Firepits and Outdoor Heaters, as of <date>, supercedes and adds to Section 5-21 of First River Farms Rules and Regulations as of June 20, 2016.

5.3.10 Barbeque Grills, Smokers, Firepits and Outdoor Heaters

5.3.10.1 General

- a. Barbeque grills, barbeque smokers, firepits and portable outdoor heaters may be stored and used only in the backyard of a house. Such items may not be used in common areas.
- b. Grills, smokers, firepits and heaters may not be built-in or permanently attached to any structure.
- c. Residents must follow all regulations outlined in Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code governing barbeque grills and open-flame cooking devices, portable outdoor fireplaces, and portable heaters. (These regulations may be found at fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/fire-marshal/code-references-and-publications.)
- d. Do not leave a grill, smoker, firepit or heater unattended when in use or while heating elements are still hot and/or fires are smoldering. Be prepared to put out a fire by keeping a fire extinguisher and/or a garden hose nearby and ready to use.
- e. After use, ensure that these devices have been properly shut down – fires are completely extinguished, burners and fuel supply have been turned off and cooled, and any embers are completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

5.3.10.2 Barbeque grills and smokers

- a. A barbeque grill or smoker may be stored on a deck or in the backyard.
- b. A barbeque grill or smoker may be used on a deck or in the backyard, but not under a deck.
- c. When in use, a grill or smoker should be:
 - in a well-ventilated area;
 - on a stable, level fire-resistant surface – not directly on grass; and
 - at least 5 feet away (10 feet is better) from any structure or other combustible material (house, shed, fence, deck railings, tree branches, wood mulch, decorations, etc.)

5.3.10.3 Firepits

- a. A firepit may not be stored or used on a deck.
- b. A firepit may be used in the backyard, but not under a deck.
- c. When in use, a firepit should be:

- in a well-ventilated area;
- on a stable, level fire-resistant surface – not directly on grass, wood, or other combustible surface; and
- at least 10 feet away (15 feet is better) from any structure or other combustible material (house, shed, fence, deck, tree branches, wood mulch, decorations, etc.)

5.3.10.4 *Outdoor heaters*

- a. A portable outdoor heater may be stored on a deck or in the backyard.
- b. A portable outdoor heater may be used on a deck or in the backyard, but not under a deck.
- c. When in use, a portable outdoor heater should be:
 - in a well-ventilated area;
 - on a stable, level fire-resistant surface – not directly on grass; and
 - at least 5 feet away (10 feet is better) from any structure or other combustible material (house, shed, fence, deck railings, tree branches, wood mulch, decorations, etc.)
- d. A portable outdoor heater must be equipped with an automatic tilt or tip-over switch.

5.3.10.5 *Fuel gas containers*

- a. No more than two fuel gas containers (propane or LPG tanks) with a maximum capacity of 20 pounds may be stored on a deck or in the backyard at any given time.
- b. Fuel gas containers must be stored outside in a well-ventilated area, on a solid dry surface, and away from doors and windows. Outside storage must be located in a manner that minimizes exposure to excessive temperature rise.
- c. Fuel gas containers must be DOT or ASME approved.