

**FIRE LAWS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE
REQUIREMENTS FOR APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND APARTMENT-STYLE
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS**

The following are several of the minimum requirements to safeguard life, property and public welfare. Requirements are from NFPA 1, Fire Code, 2015 Edition, unless otherwise noted.

Charcoal and gas cooking equipment

For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal 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 15 ft (3 m) of any structure. [10.10.6.1]

Barbecuing or charcoal grilling on a balcony or patio, or within fifteen feet of an apartment building is not permitted.

Storage of fuel powered equipment

Fueled equipment, including but not limited to motorcycles, mopeds, lawn-care equipment, and portable cooking equipment, shall not be stored, operated, or repaired within a building except where the building is protected or has been constructed for such use. [10.18.7]

Motor vehicles of any type, whether operable or not, cannot be stored in an apartment building or on a balcony of an apartment building. Propane gas bottles cannot be stored or used in an apartment or on a patio or balcony of an apartment.

Self-closing doors

Blocking or wedging of doors in the open position shall be prohibited. Doors shall be operable at all times. [12.4.6.1]

Blocking open laundry, storage, apartment, or trash room doors in an apartment building is not permitted.

Storage in stairwells

Combustible material shall not be stored in any stairwell. [10.19.4]

Storage of any item in an exit pathway is unlawful; bicycles, strollers, trash, furniture, etc. See also “Impediments to Egress” below.

Tampering with Fire Safety Devices

No person shall render any portable or fixed fire-extinguishing system or device or any fire-warning system or device inoperative or inaccessible. [10.7.1]

Fire safety devices include smoke detectors, pull stations, fire extinguishers, etc.

Failure to evacuate

No person shall fail to leave a building when notified to do so when directed by the AHJ or the Incident Commander as a result of a known or perceived emergency. [10.4.1]

It is illegal to remain inside a building or structure if the fire alarm activates, or if an order to evacuate the building is given by a City of Rockville Fire Marshal or the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

Impediments to Egress

Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use of in the case of fire or other emergency. [NFPA 101-7.1.10.1]

No furnishings, decorations, or other objects shall obstruct exits or access thereto, egress there from, or visibility thereof. [NFPA101-7.1.10.2]

All exit paths (means of egress) must be kept clear of storage, decorations, or other objects so that they can be used freely in the event of a fire or other emergency requiring the evacuation of the building.

Failure to comply with any of the above shall constitute a municipal infraction and/or misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine or imprisonment, for each offense, and each day's violations shall constitute a separate violation and a separate offense, as provided by law.