

Outdoor Gas Fired Heating Appliances

Prohibited Use in: Assemblies, Educational, Institutional, and Residential Areas 1,2,3, and 4.

Virginia Beach Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with inspecting new and existing buildings within the City of Virginia Beach. The main focus when performing inspections is life safety and subsequently building/property safety. The objective of fire inspections is to identify and correct fire and life safety code violations.

Heating Appliances

This flyer will outline the most common questions associated with having a heating appliance in or around your business. Keep in mind that that residential homes are exempt from these requirements but we strongly encourage that all safety precautions are taken when using these products.

Fire Prevention Bureau
2408 Courthouse Dr.
Building #21,
Virginia Beach, VA, 23456
Phone: 385-4228 Fax: 385-5676
www.vbgov.com/fire-prevention

Patio Heaters

Outdoor portable gas heaters are becoming extremely popular. These types of units vary by shape, size, BTU's, and manufacturer but they all must follow requirements in the fire code to be used in any setting.

- Appliances shall be 5 feet from buildings
- Appliances shall be 5 feet from anything combustible
- Appliances shall be 5 feet from any exit
- LP gas cylinders can't be stored in a building
- Appliances shall not be used under any membrane structures such as awnings, tents, or canopies.
- Appliances shall not be used on any balcony
- All appliances must have a safety switch built into the units that turns off the gas supply if it tilts 15 degrees or more.

Any device that does not meet these criteria or other standards in the Fire Code may have their operations discontinued and/or the appliance removed by order of the Fire Marshal.

Portable outdoor table heaters may not be used by commercial businesses or on city property at this time

At no time may any portable heating device be used in a location that may compromise the use of the appliance due to vehicular impact.

General Appliances

There are many types of gas fired heating appliances available for various applications, below are a few listed to show proper use when following the Fire Code.

Tent Heaters

All tent heaters must have a ductwork attachment that pushes the warm air into the tent. The heater itself may not be used in the tent.

Torpedo Heaters

These heaters **may not** be used in repair garages at all due to the occupancy hazards in that use group. They may not be used indoors in most occupancies due to the ventilation requirements and the proper distance from combustibles

LPG Tank Heaters

These devices may be used for outdoor use only and the LPG tanks may not be stored or used in any commercial occupancy.

Kerosene Heaters

These heaters must be used in a well ventilated area, which prevents their use in most structures.



- 5 Ft from the end of the heat deflector



Portable heaters are generally designed to be used outdoors
LPG TANKS MUST BE REMOVED WHEN STORING ANY HEATER IN A STRUCTURE

