

# Summer Set-Up + Safety on Your Condo Balcony



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Summer is here, and as a resident of a condo building, it's important to consider the rules and regulations that govern the use of your balcony. Balconies are considered "exclusive use common element areas" and are subject to the condo's governing documents, local codes, and municipal bylaws.

In this handout, together let's go over some important guidelines for setting up and using your balcony safely and considerately.



## SEASONAL FURNITURE

When it comes to enjoying warmer weather from your condo's balcony, it's important to be aware of what's allowed. Most condos permit outdoor furniture, that functions as appropriate seasonal furniture. If you're setting up your own balcony furniture, consider storage options, safety risks, and avoiding flammable materials.



## PLANTS TO LIVEN UP THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

Plants on balconies can enhance the look of a space, but it's important to ensure that their care doesn't create problems for neighbors below. To prevent excessive water from draining to lower units, plant pots should have a tray/container underneath during watering.

## FIRE RISK

**SMOKING:**

Residents of condominium buildings should check with their property management about smoking on balconies, as they may be subjected to the same rules as other common areas. If smoking is not allowed, residents should follow the rule to avoid potential warnings or legal action. Residents who smoke on balconies in condominium buildings where it is allowed must be mindful of the high-density living and risks associated with it. Cigarette butts must be properly put out and disposed of to avoid a fire hazard and littering.



**BBQs:**

Propane tanks are usually not allowed on balconies due to the difficulty of complying with propane tank regulations. Condos may also prohibit cooking on balconies, so it's important to check with property management before setting up any cooking facilities.

## DON'T BE THAT NOISY NEIGHBOUR

Living in a condo means being respectful of your neighbors, especially when it comes to noisy parties. In Ontario, the law states that all residents are entitled to reasonable enjoyment of their property, and loud parties can interfere with this. Complaints can result in unpleasant warnings from property management or legal action from the corporation, which can be costly. Additionally, breaching area-specific noise restrictions can lead to police visits. To avoid these unpleasant situations, party hosts should ensure that noise does not disturb other units.

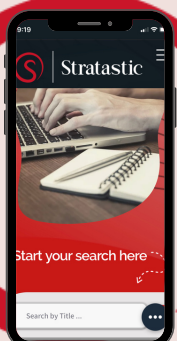


## REPORTING ISSUES

Keeping your condo community safe is everyone's responsibility, and the Board/Property Management needs your help. If you see anyone that is engaging in dangerous activity or not following the rules, be sure to get in touch with security, property management, the board, or any other appropriate person(s) to report the issue. They will look into the matter and be sure to take the appropriate actions as soon as possible in order to keep the condominium and its residents safe.

## LOOKING FOR RESOURCES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE COND LIVING ?

Stratastic's Resource Library is your go-to source! Our library includes articles, guides, and more, covering a range of topics from condo regulations to community living.



**SIGN UP TODAY AND GAIN ACCESS TO VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU THRIVE IN YOUR CONDO COMMUNITY.**

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