

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

# What is – and isn't – allowed on condo balconies.

Extra outdoor space in the summer is a huge benefit to condo owners. However, only some things are allowed to be stored on your balcony. From deck tiles and flowerpots to BBQs and bicycles here's an overview of what Condo Associations typically allow on balconies and what's prohibited. However, you should check your building's By-laws to be certain.

**BBQs**

Summer is the season for BBQing, but unfortunately, not every suite owner has a license to grill. Rules surrounding the use of BBQs on balconies vary based on municipality and building, so it's always worth checking to see before you invest in an expensive BBQ. Some buildings will allow the use of electric grills, but there can be regulations regarding the distances required between the cooking surface, and openings like windows and doors, and flammable surfaces.

**Greenery**

Sprucing up your balcony with plants sounds like a great idea, but not all types of greenery are deemed suitable or appropriate. Hanging plants, and planters that are attached to balcony railings tend to be banned by condo buildings. Planting in containers is generally the acceptable practice, but there may be regulations regarding the height and weight of dirt-filled planters. You must also be conscious, and conscientious, about watering and drainage, or risk upsetting your downstairs neighbour.

**Bicycles + Sports Equipment**

While it seems like the perfect place to store recreational equipment like bicycles, many condos have strict rules regarding balcony storage. Most condos mandate that bicycles are not allowed anywhere in the building, as they do not want them tracked through carpeted areas or in cramped elevators. The alternative at most condos is bike racks in the parking garage.

**Deck Tiles + Artificial Turf**

Concrete isn't the most comfortable or forgiving surface for owners to walk on in bare feet during the summer. However, if you were hoping to install something more inviting under foot, like wooden decking, vinyl tiles, or artificial turf, you could be out of luck. Many buildings ban these products for various reasons including fire safety, tripping hazards, and the potential of damage to the waterproof membrane.

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