

# Get grilled on safety tips



## METAL GRILL BRUSHES POSE DANGERS

If you've ever used a grill, you know that it needs to be cleaned. Many people reach for a metal wire grill brush to remove stuck-on food and debris. But this could be a dangerous mistake.

The American Medical Association says that wire grill brushes were responsible for more than 1,600 emergency room visits in just one year. These brushes have metal bristles that can break off and stick to the grill. They may be too small to see, so you don't know they're there. When you cook food on your grill, the tiny bristles can stick to the food.

If someone accidentally swallows one of these metal bristles, they can be seriously injured. The bristles can cut the inside of the mouth, throat or tonsils. This could require emergency surgery.

If you use a wire brush to clean the grill, be sure to wipe the grill off with a cloth afterward. Check the underside of the grill and lid for any bristles too.

You can also avoid using wire brushes altogether. Instead, soak the grill parts in soapy water and clean with a sponge or a paint scraper. Some people use a ball of aluminum foil to scrape the grill.



## BE SAFE WITH YOUR GRILL

- Propane (gas) and charcoal grills should only be used outside. Never use them inside a garage, barn or other building.
- Keep the grill well away from your deck railings, tree branches and house.
- Don't let children or pets near the grill.
- Open the gas grill lid before lighting it.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not add charcoal fluid or other flammable liquids to a fire. Use it only to get the grill started.
- Let charcoal cool completely before throwing it away.



Source: National Fire Protection Association