



Firepit Safety

If you are going to have a fire in our newly built fire pit, please make sure to follow these rules:

1. Check www.albertafirebans.ca
2. Never move the firepit from its set location.
3. Check wind conditions - don't have a fire if wind is 20 km/h or more, use the gauge on the kitchen counter to check.
4. Be ready to extinguish the flames - keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby for this purpose.
5. Never leave a fire pit unattended. Always have a responsible adult tending the fire.
6. Drink responsibly so everyone remains safe.
7. Please only burn the wood that we have for burning. Don't burn furniture, posts, or garbage. Feel free to use a reasonable amount of our wood, but keep the 'pile to burn' a good distance from the pit.
8. Keep chairs away from the fire.

9 Safety Rules You Should Always Follow Around the Fire Pit (www.bobvila.com)

Few delights scream summer like sitting around a fire pit with friends and family. But before you light up a blaze, take some time to reacquaint yourself with the basics of backyard fire safety.

A. Check the Wind Conditions

Before you start up a blaze in your fire pit, check the local weather forecast. Don't use your fire pit on unusually windy days, as the wind can make it hard to light the kindling and could blow sparks to surrounding brush or structures, potentially starting a fire. Also, always check the direction of the wind before you start your fire.

B. Build a Fire in the Open Fire Pit

Never light your fire pit when it's underneath the overhang of a building or beneath trees, and keep the immediate area around the pit clear of yard waste and other flammable materials. Wayward sparks can blow out of the fire and ignite nearby structures, dry wood, leaves, or other debris, and you could end up with a fire emergency.

C. Don't Burn Construction Lumber

To fuel your fire, go ahead and use the branches you sawed off that damaged oak tree after last winter's storms, or buy seasoned hardwood kindling and logs. You can also use softwoods like pine, but know that they burn less efficiently and can give off more sparks and smoke than harder woods, leading to a less pleasant evening by the fire. But you should never burn construction materials like plywood, MDF, pressure-treated boards and posts, or chemically treated wood pallets. Construction lumber is treated with chemical resins, adhesives, and other substances that emit toxic fumes when burned—definitely not what you want to be inhaling (or eating) with your roasted marshmallows!

D. Be Ready to Extinguish the Flames

Fire can be unifying and magical. It attracts people to its warmth and light and infuses outdoor gatherings with joy and romance. But it can also be an unpredictable, destructive force. If you've set your fire pit in a safe location and taken the speed and direction of the wind into account, you probably won't encounter any serious problems. But you should always keep a shovel and water at hand, just in case. In an emergency, you can use the water to quench the fire and the shovel to smother the flames by throwing dirt on them. You may also want to invest in a fire blanket, which can be used to smother a blaze in or outside the fire pit, or (worst-case scenario) on one of your guests. And be sure to teach kids to "stop, drop, and roll" in the event that their clothes catch fire. You may never need any of these safety measures, but without them a fun evening could end in tragedy.

E. Keep Chairs Away from the Fire Pit

Everyone knows to be careful around a fire pit, campfire, or chiminea, but in the heat of a s'mores session, folks may inch a little too close to the flames, and that's when hair, clothes, or other materials can catch fire. Keep chairs at a safe remove from the fire pit, and make sure your sleeves are rolled up and hair tied back when you're tending a fire or roasting food over an open flame. If your fire pit has a screen, use it.

F. Never Leave a Fire Pit Unattended

Even after a fire has died down and only glowing embers remain, do not leave it unattended—not even to dash into the house for a beverage or bathroom break. If you must leave, deputize a responsible party to stay with the fire, or extinguish the fire completely before leaving the scene. While tiny flames may seem innocuous, they're still a potential threat to your safety—after all, almost-extinguished fires have been responsible for some of the most severe wildfires in U.S. history. Pour water over live embers, and turn logs to make sure all sides of the wood have stopped burning before you call it a night.

G. Drink Responsibly

Fire and alcohol don't mix. Not only is alcohol flammable, but overindulgence in alcohol impairs coordination, judgment, and reflexes, which could result in injuries to anyone gathered around the perimeter of a fire. If you or your guests are going to drink by an open fire, do so in moderation. Keep everybody a safe distance from the flames, and be ready to douse the fire in case of any alcohol-induced mishaps.

H. Heed No-Burn Alerts

When high emissions and weather conditions combine to increase fine particulate pollution to an unhealthy level, some municipalities issue no-burn alerts to protect local air quality. Noncompliance with a no-burn order not only puts your community's health at risk, but could also result in fines. So, before you light the kindling, check to see if there's a no-burn advisory in effect.

I. Store Firewood Safely

To keep a fire going all evening, you'll need to continue feeding it fuel. Take care, though, to keep firewood at a safe distance from the fire pit. You want to feed the fire at your own pace, not have it jump the fire pit and feed itself!