

Enjoy Your Back Yard Fireplace - By Using Common Sense

Fire pits and portable outdoor fireplaces have become very popular in recent years. Unfortunately reports of accidental fires caused by these types of recreational fire devices have also increased dramatically. Backyard fires are allowed without a permit as long as you follow some basic rules.



Common Sense Safety Items

Fire pits should not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. A recreational fire should never be more than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high in dimension.

Portable outdoor fireplaces must be at least 15 feet from any combustibles and should never be placed on wood decks. Preferably, these devices should set on concrete or level areas of dirt or gravel. Never place a device in an enclosed patio or deck or under overhangs or awnings. Always follow all manufacture instructions when using your portable outdoor fireplace.

Do a visual inspection to make sure there are no tree limbs or overhead wires that could catch fire. There should be no combustibles within 15 feet of any open flame.

Be A Good (Safe) Neighbor

Fuel for a recreational fire shall consist only of **seasoned** dry firewood (*dried at least six months*) to minimize the generation of air contaminants. Don't use your fire pit for burning rubbish, leaves, rotten or green wood or any other material that will cause excessive smoke in the neighborhood. The fire shall not be used for waste disposal purposes.

When burning, use a spark arrestor if possible and don't burn when weather conditions include gusty or high winds.

Make sure fires are never unattended. Keep children and pets away from fires. Have a Fire Safety Plan and share safety rules with family members.

Keep a water hose or fire extinguisher close by at all times.

Make sure the fire is completely out before you leave the area. A smoldering fire can be considered a nuisance and is prohibited.



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