

## Can I have a bonfire in my own garden?



The Council would prefer residents not to burn waste. Please take your waste to a recycling centre or use home composting. If this is not possible, you may, in some circumstances, be able to burn small amounts of dry garden waste without causing any problems.

## What time of day can I have a bonfire?

There is no specific time restriction on when you can have a bonfire, but remember to respect your neighbours, who might wish to be using their own garden.

## How often can I have a bonfire?

There is no specified limit on the number of bonfires you may have, but the more fires you have, the more likely it is that they will become a nuisance to others.

## What should I do if bonfires are annoying me?

You may speak to the person responsible and explain they are causing a problem. Alternatively you could contact Environmental Health. We would usually ask you to keep a record of the fires. We



may also write to the person responsible, telling them that they are causing a nuisance and, if appropriate, we will visit the property.

## I have a lot of garden waste to burn - what are the alternatives?

- Compost your garden waste or use garden shredder
- Take waste to a recycling centre
- Request a garden waste collection from *StreetScene*. Green garden sacks can be purchased from *StreetScene* and included in your collection
- Bulky items can be collected by *StreetScene*. Call 01395 517528 for current prices and to arrange collection

Having a bonfire should only be used as a last resort.

## Are there any laws regarding the burning of waste?

Bonfires are not specifically prohibited in law, but they may cause a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A statutory nuisance occurs if smoke interferes unreasonably with the ordinary use or enjoyment of another person's property. This takes into account the frequency, duration and intensity of the interference.

In practice this means that the smoke, or smell of smoke, crosses your boundary and causes annoyance to others.

It is also an offence to burn any waste generated as a result of a commercial activity, or any waste that will cause dark or black smoke.

## What materials are suitable and not suitable to burn in a garden bonfire?

You may be able to burn dry garden waste, clean wood, paper or card.

Only burn dry material, as this will burn quickly and give off a minimum amount of smoke and smell.

Never burn oil, green garden waste, animal bedding, rubber, plastic, foam or paint, as these can produce dark smoke, which is potentially toxic and environmentally unacceptable. Never use old engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol to light a fire.

