

BONFIRE AND FIREWORK GUIDANCE

BONFIRES

There are no laws about having a bonfire only the nuisance they can cause.

DOMESTIC BONFIRE GUIDELINES

If you have garden waste to dispose of, try and compost as much as possible. Consider using a shredding machine, which can reduce hardwood materials into mulch for use on your garden. The remainder can be taken to one of the local recycling centres.

If you must light a bonfire, ensure that the material to be burnt is dry. This will minimise the amount of smoke produced.

- Do not light a fire when the weather conditions might cause the smoke to travel into your neighbours' gardens or property.
- Remember that smoke will hang in the air on a damp, windless day and in the evening around sunset.
- Position any bonfire as far away from buildings as possible. Do not light a fire if the wind will carry the smoke over roads.
- Never leave a fire to smoulder - put it out with water or soil.
- Remember, heaps of garden refuse provide a haven for small animals such as hedgehogs. Check before you light.
- Take care to keep children away from a bonfire. Supervise burning as much as possible.
- Burn only dry plant/wood waste. Avoid burning any wood that is treated/painted or any other household waste.

COMMERCIAL BONFIRE GUIDELINES

A commercial bonfire could be a bonfire on industrial premises, trade premises, demolition sites and land being used for commercial agriculture or horticulture purposes.

Commercial premises and builders should not use bonfires to dispose of any rubbish produced as a result of their operations. The only exception to this is the burning of diseased wood on site, which is permitted in certain cases.

Common complaints about commercial bonfires include the smoke and smell:

- Stopping residents from enjoying their gardens
- Stopping neighbours from opening windows or hanging washing out
- Reducing visibility in the neighbourhood

FIREWORKS

Rules

Fireworks can be let off any day of the year between the hours of 7.00am and 11pm.

Exceptions to the 11pm rule are:

-  November 5th (Bonfire Night/Guy Fawkes): You can let fireworks off until midnight
-  December 31st (New Year's Eve): You can let fireworks off until 1am
-  Diwali: You can let fireworks off until 1am
-  Chinese New Year: You can let fireworks off until 1am.

Do not let fireworks off in the street or other public places; it is against the law

Guidance

Be considerate to your neighbours, particularly if they are elderly, have pets or small children and let them know you are planning to have a display

Let any surrounding properties with livestock know, so they have the opportunity to move them if appropriate.

Always follow the guidance and instructions carefully.

STAY SAFE, BE CONSIDERATE AND DON'T BECOME A NUISANCE