

Neighbourly Guidelines when lighting garden fires

If you must have a bonfire to burn any waste that cannot be composted, then it is advisable to follow these simple guidelines.

The most important guideline is to think first about how your fire and its smoke will affect your neighbours. Putting it the other way round, what would concern you if your neighbour lit a garden fire and smoke went all over your property, your clothes on the line and perhaps into your open windows? So....



- Warn your neighbours – this gives them an opportunity to close windows and doors, remove washing off the line and they are much less likely to complain
- Ideally burn later in the evening when people are less likely to use their gardens
- Only burn dry material
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days. If it is too windy, smoke blows into neighbours' gardens and windows and across roads
- Avoid burning when air pollution levels in your area are high or very high. You can check air quality on 0800 556677.
- Keep your fire away from trees, fences and buildings
- Warning Never use oil, petrol or methylated spirits to light a fire - you could damage yourself as well as the environment
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder - put it out

Please, think about your neighbours, first.