

Guidelines

If you do have to light a bonfire please follow these guidelines:

- 1 Only burn dry material.
- 2 Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
- 3 Never use old engine oil, meths, petrol or paraffin to light the fire or to encourage it.
- 4 Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions. Smoke hangs in the air on damp, dull days and in the evenings.
- 5 Avoid burning when the wind will carry the smoke over the roads or into other people's properties.
- 7 Avoid burning at the weekends and on Bank Holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens.
- 8 Avoid burning when the air quality in your area is 'poor' or 'very poor' (you can check this by ringing 0800 556677 or looking at Ceefax page 401).
- 9 Never leave a fire unattended or smouldering.

For more information and free advice contact:

Environmental Services
West Oxfordshire District Council
Elmfield
New Yatt Road
Witney
Oxfordshire OX28 1PB

Tel: 01993 861060

Fax: 01993 861050

Or visit our website:
www.westoxon.gov.uk



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Environmental Nuisances - Bonfires and Burning



Bonfires and the law

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it an offence to cause a smoke nuisance to other residents. In such cases the Council has the legal duty to act to ensure that nuisance is abated. Persistent offenders could be liable, on conviction, for a substantial fine.

What are the alternatives?

Composting

Most garden or kitchen waste, even cardboard or paper can be composted. Properly composted waste provides an excellent soil conditioner and can save money on shop bought products.

Advice on composting can be obtained from the Council or the National Centre for Organic Gardening, Ryston-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, CV8 3LG.

Home Composting bins are available at reduced prices from the Council and a special collection for green waste is also available.

Civic Amenity Sites

You can take garden refuse and unwanted household items to the civic amenity sites. These are located at Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt and Dean Pit, Chadlington.

Recycling

The Council provides recycling facilities at many locations throughout the District for a number of items, such as glass, cans, paper, magazines etc. In addition to recycling banks, all residents receive a kerbside collection of recyclable materials.

Collection

A collection service is provided for bulky items of household waste for which a charge will be made. As the charge will be dependant on the number and type of items to be collected a quotation will be given on application.

For all enquiries concerning composting, recycling and collection contact the Town Centre Shop on 01993 861020

Bonfires are a major source of neighbourhood nuisance.

Bonfires can spoil your neighbour's enjoyment of their property by preventing them using their gardens, opening windows or hanging out washing.

As well as causing nuisance, bonfires increase general air pollution levels. The immediate health risks may be low, but increased air pollution may cause long term problems for children, asthmatics or bronchitis sufferers. Smoke can contain cancer causing substances.

