

Fire Pit Rules

A fire pit can be safely placed in your back yard.

It needs to be constructed of non-combustible materials such as brick, stone, concrete, or metal. Free standing commercial products are available for purchase at lumber, hardware, or sporting goods stores.

The fire pit can be no closer than 15 feet to any structure, combustible material, property line, deck, etc. Only firewood, limbs, and wood chips may be burned in the fire pit. The fire pit can be no larger than 36 inches in diameter. The flames can be no higher than 2 feet. Fire pit and other outdoor fire place use shall be discontinued when there is a ban or moratorium on burning issued by federal, state, or local agencies. Outdoor use shall also be discontinued when the wind speed is in excess of 15 mph. (Check local weather stations or phone apps for up to the minute wind speeds.)

The fire pit needs to be protected with a spark arrestor screen having a maximum $\frac{1}{2}$ inch metal openings secured across the top of the fire pit or located on the vent or chimney. The screen can be secured by metal wire. Some residential associations have community policies that prohibit open burning within 500 feet of any shake shingle roof.

Please use the fire pit with sensitivity to neighbors that may have health conditions or wish to have windows open in their home. Complaints about smoke addressed by the fire department may require suppression of the fire.

Please burn safely with attention to environmental conditions. Burning of trash, rubbish, paper, and plastic is not allowed in a fire pit or outdoor fireplace. A means of fire extinguishment needs to be kept on hand just in case. A garden hose would be preferred for this situation. The fire must be attended at all times by a responsible adult. Be sure the fire is completely out when you leave the area.

For further questions, please contact the Community Risk Reduction Division at 268-4441.