

Fire Pit Safety

- Fire pits should be placed at a minimum of ten feet away from your house and also neighbors fenceline and yards.
- It should also be in a place where there are no overhanging branches, fences or other structures that could easily catch fire.
- Fire pits should never be placed on wood decks as this is a serious fire hazard. Install fire pits on safe surfaces such as brick, stone, gravel, concrete, or some type of fire-resistant composite material.
- Surround the pit with non-combustible material.
- Never leave a lit fire-pit unattended by an adult and carefully watch children in the area.
- Monitor the weather and wind. Do not have an open, wood-burning fire in windy conditions and do not allow sparks and embers to land on neighbor's property.
- If using a gas or propane fire pit, ensure there is adequate ventilation and follow the manufacturer's lighting instructions.
- Do not burn wood in gas-fueled fire pits that are not specifically made to do so.
- If using a wood fire pit, do not use gasoline to start the fire and use seasoned wood to prevent excess sparking and smoke.
- Avoid burning construction materials, such as plywood or composite woods, which can release toxic fumes when burned.
- If your fire pit has a screen, use it whenever you're burning.
- Do not set plastic furniture too close to the fire pit and arrange seating so that guest can sit and stand without risk of stumbling into the fire.
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by and it's also a good idea to have a bucket of sand or garden hose handy to deal with wayward sparks from wood fires. If using a hose, set the spray nozzle to a shower-type spray which will douse a flare up, versus a direct stream of water which can spread sparks.
- Keep fire gloves nearby to handle hot parts of the fire pit safely.
- When you're done enjoying your fire for the evening, douse it properly. Most manufactured fire pits offer specific instructions for extinguishing a fire.
- When dousing a wood fire, carefully spread the coals out and cover with sand, dirt or water. Coals and remain hot for hours after the fire is out, so plan accordingly.

