

- Only burn dry material. Compost all grass cuttings or other soft vegetable waste which is difficult to dry. If burnt, these things will cause an offensive smell and will smoulder.
- Never light a bonfire unless weather conditions and wind direction will carry smoke away from your neighbours' windows and away from roads (you may commit an offence if you obscure a road with smoke).
- Never light a fire when neighbours have washing on the line.
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder for long periods. You may find the Fire Brigade will put out an unattended fire.
- Wherever possible, use a purpose-made garden incinerator and use it in line with the maker's instructions.
- Make sure someone supervises the fire until everything is burnt. If it has to be left, dampen it down. Keep a bucket of water or a hose pipe handy just in case.

REMEMBER – Burning waste should be a last resort.

EP/NB/0419

Large print or a different format?

翻譯的幫助

Překladačská Pomoc

अनुवाद सहायता

Pomoc w tłumaczeniach

Pomoc pre prekladání

Tercüme Yardımı



01303 853660

Nuisance Bonfires

Information and advice



Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue

Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY

Telephone: 01303 853 660

Email: environmental.services@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Folkestone
& Hythe
District Council



Folkestone & Hythe District Council can sometimes take action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 if bonfires cause a 'statutory nuisance' to people living nearby.

This would include, for example, frequent and prolonged exposure to thick smoke, smut and smell produced by burning old cars, industrial or commercial waste.

Any dark smoke produced by open air burning of trade premises is an offence under the Clean Air Act 1993.

Fines for these offences can be up to £20,000.

Even a single bonfire may cause offence to your neighbours and can spoil the environment. Bonfire smoke can contain carbon monoxide, fine particles, poisonous and irritating compounds. Long term exposure to these can cause ill health and aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

Think before you burn

There are easy alternatives to garden bonfires, like composting, disposal at Civic Amenity sites, or using the council's recycling and garden waste collections.

Composting

Composting is one of the most efficient and environmentally-friendly ways of disposing of garden and kitchen waste.

Most kitchen waste and garden debris can be recycled back into the soil. Tea leaves, or bags, vegetables and fruit peelings, egg shells, some weeds, grass cuttings – in fact almost anything that once was

living – can be used to make your soil more fertile and help your plants to flourish. It is very easy to do, helps reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and prevents nuisance from bonfires.

Worm compost

If your recyclable rubbish is mainly kitchen waste or if you do not have space for a compost heap, this method of producing small amounts of compost is ideal. An additional benefit of this method is that it produces a very rich liquid fertiliser for use on plants and vegetables. It is easy to maintain and it does not smell.

Compost worms can be kept in a plastic dustbin and fed on all compostable materials. They like supplies 'little and often'.

The type of worm used is called the 'Tigerworm' which can be bought from most fishing tackle shops, and turns the waste into a really wonderful compost.

Garden waste and bulky waste collections

If you cannot compost at home, you may wish to use the council's garden waste collection service (for which there is a charge). The council also offers a collection of bulky items like settees, fridges and freezers.

There is a charge for this depending on the sort, and amount, of bulky waste you'd like collected. For details about the garden waste collection and bulky waste collection please contact the Environmental Services Team on 01303 853660.

Or you can take garden waste to Kent County Council's household waste recycling centres at

Rossway, Folkestone

08.00 - 16.30 - Monday to Saturday

09.00 - 16.00 - Sunday & Bank Holidays

Mountfield Road, New Romney

08:00 - 16:30 - Monday to Saturday

09:00 - 16:00 - Sunday & Bank Holidays

If you must burn

If composting or the council's waste collection services are not appropriate, burning may be the only option.

Commonsense and thoughtfulness can generally enable a bonfire to be lit without causing any trouble. If burning is your only option, please use the following safety guidelines:

- Always advise your neighbours before you start your bonfire so that they are prepared for any minor inconvenience that might arise and so you can agree mutual arrangements.
- Check before lighting a bonfire, both inside and outside, that children and animals are safely away.
- Choose the site for your bonfire carefully, away from fences and as far from houses as possible.
- Never use old engine oil, methylated spirit or petrol to light the fire or encourage it.
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing paint, foam or plastic, which may produce poisonous, heavy or pungent smoke.
- Do not burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, foam furniture, batteries etc.