

THE LAW

There are no by-laws within Adur and Worthing which prevent you having a bonfire or restricting at what time of day you can light one.

If smoke, dust or fumes cause a statutory nuisance to your neighbours, an Abatement Notice can be served on the perpetrator under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990. Failure to comply with a Notice is an offence and can result in fines.



HEALTH EFFECTS

Smoke: bonfire smoke contains carbon monoxide gas and other noxious or irritating compounds. These can cause breathing difficulties for susceptible people such as asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, those with heart disease and children.

Toxic fumes: when burnt, seemingly harmless domestic wastes can produce toxic fumes such as dioxins, hydrogen cyanide and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Such materials include plastics, foam, paint, rubber, shipboard and plywoods. Some of these toxins are known to be carcinogenic.

Local Air Quality: whilst short term exposure to bonfire smoke is unlikely to cause any serious damage to health, by lighting a bonfire you will be adding to the general background level of pollution. Do you really want to worsen your local air quality?

ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES?

Bulky Household Waste Collection Service: the Council provides a bulky waste collection service for residents. The cost of this depends upon the quantity to be removed, for more details see:

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/bulky-waste

You can contact the Refuse, Recycling and Waste Team on **01903 851729** for more information or can pick up a free leaflet from one of our Council offices (listed overleaf).

Garden Waste Wheeled Bin Service: these can be hired for £70 per year. Collection is operated on a weekly basis. Green waste is sent for composting, see www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/garden-waste

Garden Waste Sacks: grass cuttings, weeds, dead flowers and plants, fallen leaves and hedge clippings can be placed in garden waste sacks for collection by the Council. The sacks cost £1 each and that includes the cost of collection. Garden sacks should be left at the kerbside and will be collected on the same day as your refuse collection. Sacks are available from the Council Offices or from certain local shops - a list is available at:

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/garden-waste/sack-retailers

Recycling: many unwanted household waste items, including furniture, can be recycled or re-used (donated). To find out about the facilities near your home, please contact the Waste and Recycling Team on **01903 851729** or see

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/recycling



Composting: many types of garden and kitchen waste can be made into compost; even newspaper and cardboard. You can buy specially-designed composting units or you can make your own. Your home-made compost can be used to improve your soil at a fraction of the cost of ready-made composts. For more information, please contact the Waste and Recycling Team on **01903 851729**

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING SITES (HWRS Tips)

Disposal of household waste and domestic garden waste is free at:

Shoreham HRWS / Tip: Brighton Road (near B&Q), Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RJ

Telephone: **01273 454081**

Opening times: (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays)

- 10:00am to 7:00pm
1st April to 30th September (Summer)
- 10:00am to 5:00pm
1st October to 31st March (Winter)

Worthing HWRS / Tip (Willowbrook Road):

Willowbrook Road, Worthing, BN14 8NA

Telephone: **01903 203694**

Opening times:

- 9:00am to 7:00pm
17th June to 30th September (Summer)
- 9:00am (tbc) to 5:00pm
1st October to 31st March (Winter)

GOOD BONFIRE PRACTICE

If you really do still want to have a bonfire, please consider the following:

- Let your neighbours know you are planning on having a bonfire
- Avoid having a bonfire when your neighbour's washing is out
- Avoid burning on damp or still days as smoke may linger in these conditions
- Avoid burning when the wind may carry smoke over roads or neighbouring properties
- Avoid burning in the evening
- Avoid burning when people are most likely to want to enjoy their gardens, such as weekends and Bank Holidays
- Never use oil, methylated spirits, paraffin or petrol to light or encourage a bonfire
- Only burn dry materials. Damp materials will smoulder and produce more smoke
- Never burn items which may produce toxic fumes
- Do not burn near fences, buildings and trees
- Always check before lighting a bonfire that no wildlife, pets or children are hidden in the material
- Never let children light or tend a bonfire
- Never leave a bonfire unattended

For more information, please contact
Public Health and Regulation on **01903 221064** or
publichealth.regulation@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Council offices:

Portland House, 44 Richmond Road,
Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HS

The Shoreham Centre, Pond Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5WU

9 Commerce Way, Lancing Business Park,
Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8TA

Revised 2017 by Public Health & Regulation,
Adur & Worthing Councils
www.adur-worthing.gov.uk



GARDEN BONFIRES

This leaflet explains the law on bonfires, highlights some of the problems they can cause and gives advice on alternative methods of disposing of your household and garden waste

