

THE LAW

There are no laws preventing you from having a bonfire, as long as it does not cause a statutory nuisance to other people. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 a bonfire could cause a statutory nuisance if it occurs regularly and prevents someone enjoying their garden or opening windows. If a large fire produces lots of smoke, or is left to burn for a prolonged period, it may still be considered a statutory nuisance, even if it is a one-off.

Where a nuisance is found an Abatement Notice can be served on the perpetrator person responsible. Failure to comply with such a Notice is an offence and can result in an unlimited fine.

We therefore recommend not having a bonfire.

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 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 or call 01903 851729.

Garden Waste Wheelie Bin Subscription: Garden waste bin collection subscription is £85 per year. Collection is operated on a weekly basis and the green waste is sent for composting, see www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/garden-waste

Garden Waste Sacks: grass cuttings, weeds, prunings, flowers, leaves, plants and hedge and tree cuttings, can be placed in garden waste sacks for collection by the Council. The sacks cost £1.25 each including the cost of collection. Garden sacks should be left at the kerbside and will be collected on the same day as your waste. Sacks are available from certain local shops - a list is available at: www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/garden-waste/sack-retailers

Recycling: many waste items, including furniture, can be recycled or re-used (donated). For more details see www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/recycling or contact the Waste and Recycling Team on 01903 851729



Composting: Home composting breaks down garden and some food waste (such as fruit and vegetable peelings, apple cores, etc) turning it into compost for your garden and reducing what gets sent to landfill. The Council offers discounts on a range of home composters too.

For more information please visit www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/garden-waste/#composting or 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 these sites. Please note you must now book a time slot online before visiting. See www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres

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

Telephone: **01273 454081**

Opening times:

- (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
- 1st April to 30th September (Summer)
9:00am to 6:00pm
- 1st October to 31st March (Winter)
9:00am to 4:00pm

Worthing HWRS : Hambridge Trading Estate Willowbrook Road, Worthing, BN14 8NA

Telephone: **01903 203694**

Opening times:

- 1st April to 30th September (Summer)
9:00am to 6:00pm
- 1st October to 31st March (Winter)
(Closed Thursdays)
9:00am to 4:00pm

GOOD BONFIRE PRACTICE

If you really must 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

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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

