

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES, FIRE PITS, & CHIMINEAS

Outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are common devices people have at their homes. On a warm summer evening, roasting marshmallows in a fire pit, or simply gathering around a chiminea with friends can make for a fun and relaxing activity. While these outdoor devices can be a source of enjoyment, they can be dangerous if not used appropriately.

If you plan to buy or use an outdoor fireplace, fire pit, or chiminea, you should always be aware of any regulations governing their use and any special considerations connected with a device with the potential for fire. The city code prohibits the open burning of any trash or other material. To aid residents, the City offers free brush pickup in the spring and leaf pickup in the fall. Brush and leaf drop-off dates are scheduled throughout the summer.

Remember, always keep safety in mind when setting up, using, and cleaning up after any type of outdoor fire!



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Considerations:

Is it important to note that even though these devices are legal, certain restrictions may apply to their use.

- Do not use these devices for the disposal of waste, trash, construction materials, or landscape waste.
- Follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines and instructions.
- The location for any bonfire or campfire shall not be less than 25 feet from any structure and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 25 feet of any structure. The location of commercially manufactured steel or ceramic portable fireplaces, including chimineas and portable fire pits, shall not be less than 15 feet away from any structure.
- Maintain at least three (3) feet of clearance from any combustible material or item.
- Only use dry seasoned firewood. Ignite with a small amount of clean dry paper.
- Do not use during high wind conditions.
- Use some type of non-combustible surface underneath to catch sparks, dropping coals, embers, or ashes, i.e. a metal drop pan.
- Use of these devices will be suspended in a situation where the smoke from one of these devices is objectionable or offensive to the community.



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General Safety Tips:

- Never use gasoline, kerosene, starter fluids, or any other substance that may create a rapid build-up of fire.
- DO NOT use any of these outdoor devices inside your home.
 - o These units are not intended as a primary heating source.
- Keep your outdoor fire small. Smaller fires are easier to control.
- Supervise children and pets closely, never let them get too close to the fire.
- Have a source of water nearby (i.e. hose, bucket of water, or dirt/sand) to put a fire out.
- Never leave an outdoor fire unattended.
- Make sure to extinguish a fire completely before leaving the site unattended.
- Properly dispose of the ashes once the fire is out. Allow them to cool for 48 hours before disposing, otherwise, douse with plenty of water and NEVER place them in plastic, paper, or wooden containers, only metal.
- If your clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP, and ROLL. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, and cover your face. Roll back and forth on the ground until the fire is out.

