

For many, a campfire is a beloved outdoor tradition. It's the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of camping: laughing, roasting hot dogs and sharing stories around crackling flames. The fire is not only the social hub of a campsite; it's a way to cook food and a way to keep warm. Check out these tips to enjoy a safe campfire the next time you head out into the great outdoors.

FIRE SAFETY

Today's Hottest Thing

For a fire to burn properly you need fuel, heat and air.

Fuel

Fuel is any kind of combustible material. Wood is the most common combustible used. Below are the types of wood you require for a successful fire.

Tinder

Small twigs, dry leaves, needles, bark, wood shavings or paper if you have it: should burn immediately when lit



Heat

A fire is ignited by a heat source—like friction or a spark.

Kindling

Sticks as thick as fingers

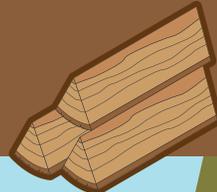


Oxygen

Fire requires air to burn.

Firewood

Logs of wood to keep a fire burning long into the night



Choose a site

- Pick a site close to a water source.
- Choose a site with a natural windbreak.
- Build your fire in the provided fire pit, or on a durable surface like a rock, dirt or sand to prevent scorching.
- Keep gathered firewood away from the fire area.

Building your campfire

- Keep your fire small—no bigger than one metre high and one metre wide.
- Small fires are safer, easier to control and easier to put out.
- Small fires are ideal for cooking.

Make sure the space above your fire is clear of tree branches



Build your fire at least 3 metres away from logs, stumps, roots, trees and overhanging branches.

3 m

Build your fire 15 metres away from buildings or tents.

15 m

Around the campfire

- Flames should be the only thing dancing near the fire pit. When performing a skit or active song, you should do so away from the fire.
- Keep fire in the pit. Do not wave flaming sticks.
- Do not get too close to the fire when cooking with a stick. Your stick should be long enough for you to cook without feeling strong heat from the flames.

Stay close

- Collect plenty of firewood before lighting the fire, so that it does not have to be left untended to gather more fuel.
- If you start a campfire, you are responsible to tend it, ensuring it is kept under control and putting it out.

No matter how careful you are, there's a chance you may be burned when lighting and tending a campfire. Relieve a burn with cool water and dress with bandages from your first aid kit.



Be prepared with the right tools to gather and split wood for your fire. Know how to use axes and saws safely!

Put the fire out



1. Pour lots of water on the campfire.



2. Stir the ashes with a stick.



3. Pour more water over top of it.

Repeat these three steps until: 1) The ashes don't hiss. 2) Everything looks wet. 3) No more smoke comes from the ashes.