

Ensure your backyard fire pit is safe by maintaining proper distance from structures, supervising children and pets, using appropriate fuel, and keeping fire-extinguishing tools nearby.

Placement and Setup

- **Distance from structures:** Position your fire pit at least 10 feet away from your house, deck, trees, fences, and other flammable objects.
- **Level, non-flammable surface:** Use stone, brick, concrete, or patio blocks to prevent tipping and reduce fire risk . Avoid grass, wood decks, or enclosed porches.
- **Wind protection:** Avoid using the fire pit on windy days to prevent sparks from spreading . Consider natural windbreaks or relocating portable pits to sheltered areas.
- **Clear overhead space:** Trim overhanging branches and ensure vertical clearance to prevent sparks from igniting foliage or structures.

Fuel and Fire Management

- **Use safe fuels:** Burn only clean, dry, seasoned hardwood for wood-burning pits. DO NOT burn plastics, treated lumber, tires, or flammable liquids like gasoline.
- **Gas and propane pits:** Inspect for leaks before each use and follow manufacturer instructions for safe operation.
- **Fire screens:** Use a screen cover to contain sparks, embers, and ash.

Supervision and Safety Practices

- **Never leave a fire unattended:** Always supervise the fire, especially when children or pets are nearby
- **Maintain safe distances:** Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the fire pit and arrange seating at a safe distance
- **Emergency preparedness:** Keep a hose, bucket of water, or shovel with dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire quickly if needed .

Extinguishing and Maintenance

- **Fully extinguish fires:** For wood-burning pits, ensure the fire is completely out and ashes are cooled before disposal in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid
- **Regular maintenance:** Inspect your fire pit for damage, clean ash and debris, and check gas connections if applicable
- **Trip hazards and lighting:** Remove loose rocks, sticks, and other obstacles around the pit, and ensure the area is well-lit for safe movement

NL Government Guidelines for “Fire Index Information” is updated daily. Please follow all Provincial and Municipal guidelines for a safe and wildfire free summer.