

FIRE PITS IN LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY

A Fire Pit is an acceptable permanent or portable outdoor receptacle or device that meets certain specifications.



The Air Pollution Control District wants you to enjoy your recreational fires safely and with as few emissions as possible. To that end, we have listed some guidelines to help you determine what kind of fire pit you should purchase or build, and where you should place it.

Keep in mind that although recreational fires in acceptable fire pits are now generally allowed without a permit, any time there is an Air Quality Alert, or there is a burn ban in place, or if winds are expected to be in excess of 15 mph, you may not burn.



You also cannot cause a nuisance to your neighbors with excessive smoke or odors.



MANUFACTURED FIRE PITS

Manufactured fire pits are now available in numerous stores and venues. Although you can purchase just about any size or shape, Air Pollution has certain specifications that must be met.



Fire pit height should not exceed 3



feet from the ground or surface on which it rests. The inside width or fire area cannot exceed 3 feet wide by 3 feet long, or 3 feet in diameter for round pits.

CONSTRUCTED OR PERMANENTLY BUILT FIRE PITS

Fire pits that are permanently constructed need to meet certain specifications in order to be used without a permit. Fire pit height cannot be more than 3 feet, and the fire pit opening, or burn area, cannot be larger than 3 feet wide by 3 feet long or 3 feet in diameter.



It must have enclosed sides made from bricks, blocks, stone of some type, heavy gauge metal, or some other District-approved non-combustible material, and be built in such a way that the pit becomes a permanent structure. Contact (502) 574-6000 if you are not sure if your planned fire pit meets APCD specifications.



OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS Louisville, KY Jefferson County



Air Pollution Control District
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 LouisvilleKy.gov

BURNING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why is open burning prohibited?

Burning produces particulate matter that directly and adversely impacts our air quality. It causes irritation to the lungs, and decreases breathing capabilities for people with lung problems. It especially affects the elderly, young children, and those with lung disease.

Can I have a campfire in my backyard?

Recreational fires are allowed. However, a permit may be required. Contact 574-6000 and ask if you need a recreational burn permit.

When do I need a permit?

You will need a permit if you are having a bonfire or recreational fire that is on the ground, not contained in an acceptable fire pit or fireplace. Permits are available online at louisvilleky.gov/apcd, or we can fax or mail one to you. Call 574-6000 and ask for a burn permit application.



What fires don't need a permit?

If you are grilling or cooking food for non-commercial purposes, and the fire is the appropriate size for what you are cooking, you will not need a permit. Recreational fires in a fire pit or outdoor fireplace do not require permits if they fall within the size requirements— 3 feet wide by 3 feet long by 3 feet tall. If you have questions, call 574-6000.

Should I notify the fire department?

Louisville Urban and Suburban Fire Districts want to be notified when you are going to have a recreational fire, bonfire, or agricultural burn. You may need to supply your fire district with a burn permit application as well.

STORM DEBRIS DISPOSAL

Can I dispose of tree debris from storms or flooding by burning it?

Burning storm and/or flood debris is prohibited. Check with Metro Call (311) or www.louisvilleky.gov to find out if there are any special allowances made for disposal at the recycling centers or landfills after major weather events.

Renting a chipper to turn branches into mulch for your yard is a great way to recycle those trees. You may also contact a professional to dispose of the tree debris.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OPEN BURNING

- Recreational bonfires should be no more than 5 feet wide by 5 feet long by 5 feet high.
- Recreational fires should be no more than 3 feet wide by 3 feet long by 3 feet high.
- Always have water available to put out your fire.
- Always contact the fire department 2 hours prior to starting the fire to notify them of your intent to burn.
- Only clean, dry firewood should be burned.
- No accelerants should be used to start the fire.
- Do not burn on an Air Quality Alert day, or when there is a County, Regional or Statewide burn ban in place. Contact Air Pollution Control District for more information.
- Do not burn if the wind speed is 15 mph or higher.
- You must obtain a permit for any recreational or agricultural burn unless it is a recreational fire in an approved fire pit.
- For more information, please review the Regulation 1.11 on Open Burning, which may be found at www.louisvilleky.gov/apcd.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PITS

Placement of a fire pit is as important as how it is constructed. Safety should always come first.

The fire pit should not be placed on a wooden deck or other combustible surface, nor on a balcony.

The State Fire Code says the fire pit should be located at least 50 feet away from buildings, property lines or combustible materials.

Only clean dry firewood should be used; no accelerants, no yard waste or debris, and no trash of any kind should be burned.

The fire should be attended by a responsible adult at all times.

Do not burn if the wind speed is 15 mph or higher.

The fire pit should have a screen or spark arrestor.

Always have a water supply handy to put the fire out if necessary.



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