



# Fire Pits



To protect the safety of citizens, the Open Burning section of the Community Standards Bylaw outlines requirements for the construction and use of outdoor fire pits.

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- The distance of fire pits from a building, structure or any combustible material is two metres. This distance is required to reduce the risk of a fire spreading.
- The size of a fire pit has been limited to one metre at its widest point, and the height of the flames cannot exceed one metre.
- Owners must have a means of extinguishing the fire and all fires must be supervised at all times.
- Fire pits cannot be used between 1:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
- Owners may be fined if they are found to be burning prohibited materials, allowing a fire to continue after 1:00 AM, burning a fire during a fire ban, or failing to comply with directions during a fire ban.
- Fires may be burnt in portable fire receptacles on a wooden deck as long as a non-combustible material such as brick or stone is placed between the portable and deck. The portable must also be situated at least two metres from any combustible materials.

## Backyard Fire Safety

When used safely and properly, fire pits can provide many seasons of enjoyment. The Open Burning section of the Community Standards Bylaw outlines the requirements for the construction and use of fire pits within the city to help protect the safety of citizens.

### Fire Pit Definitions

The bylaw applies to various types of outdoor burning, including burning in fire pits, fire places, and portable fire receptacles.

The term “fire pit” refers to a permanently affixed outdoor

receptacle. A “fire place” includes enclosed and permanently affixed outdoor fire receptacles that incorporate a permanently affixed chimney or flue and is constructed of brick, rock or other masonry. “Portable fire receptacles” are outdoor fire receptacles, which are not permanently affixed.

### Fire Pit Standards

Standards outlined in the Open Burning section of the Community Standards Bylaw include:

- Owners may not burn treated or painted lumber, lumber containing glue or resin, wet or unseasoned wood, yard waste, garbage, rubber or plastic.

# Common Questions

*Does the bylaw pertain to new or existing fire pits?*

The bylaw pertains to both new and existing fire pits. It is expected that all fire pits will be in compliance with the bylaw.

*Will the Fire Department be checking fire pits to ensure they meet the bylaw standards?*

When the Fire Department responds to a fire pit complaint, it will determine if there is a public safety concern, and if so, will extinguish the fire.

If while attending to the complaint, the Fire Department determines the fire pit to be in contravention to the bylaw standards, The City of Calgary Bylaw Services will be informed and a bylaw officer may be dispatched to examine the fire pit.

*What happens if a fire pit is in contravention to the standards outlined in the bylaw?*

If the fire pit is determined to be in contravention to the bylaw, the Fire Department will inform The City of Calgary Bylaw Services who may issue a Remedial Order requiring the owner to ensure the fire pit adheres to the bylaw standards.

*Are the standards different for portable and permanent fire pits?*

There is a slight difference. Both permanent fire pits and portable fire receptacles must be two metres away from a building or structure. However, portable fire pits may be located on a deck as long as it is placed on a non-combustible material and is situated at least two metres from a structure. All other standards are the same for both portable and permanent fire pits.

## Fire Pit Fines

Offence	Penalty
Prohibited or non-compliant fire	\$300
Burning prohibited materials	\$300
Burning a fire between 1:00 AM and 8:00AM	\$300
Fire during a fire ban	\$1,000
Failure to comply with direction during a fire ban	\$5,000

*Is there a permit process and fee for fire pits?*

It is expected fire pit owners will voluntarily comply with the new bylaw and there will be no need to implement a permit system at this time.

## For More Information

For additional information related to fire pits, please contact (403) 268-CITY.

To see a complete copy of the Open Burning section of the Community Services Bylaw and all related standards and requirements, visit [www.calgary.ca/fire/bylaws](http://www.calgary.ca/fire/bylaws) for more information.