



**Township of Lower Makefield**  
**OFFICE OF THE FIRE SERVICE DIRECTOR**  
1100 Edgewood Road Yardley, PA 19067  
(267) 274-1127 firesafety@lmt.org



## Firepits, Chimeneas and Grills

### **Are Chimenea's legal?**

YES, as long as you only burn what they are intended for (firewood).



### **Are Firepits legal?**

If the firepit is of approved built, such as one you would buy from Home Depot, Lowes or Amazon or the area that is being used as a firepit is totally enclosed with noncombustible material to prevent the spread of the fire (ex. Stone). YES

Only firewood is permitted to be burned in any firepit, it is against the Township outdoor burning ordinance to burn any municipal waste or recyclable materials (ex. leaves, trash, processed wood, etc.).



### **Are portable propane Firepits legal?**

If the portable propane firepit is of approved built, and uses approved containers not exceeding 20 lbs. YES

Keep in mind that these firepits must be used AT LEAST 5 feet away from any structure and cannot be used on or under balconies, inside residents or membrane structures (tents).

### **Where should I put the Chimenea or Firepit on my property?**

Chimeneas and Firepits shall be located AT LEAST 15 feet away from any structure and should not be used on or under wood balconies. Fires shall be always attended and a source of extinguishment shall be readily available in the event the fire gets too large.



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### **Can I have a Bonfire on my property?**

NO, Bonfires are illegal without first obtaining a permit with approval from the Township and Fire Marshal. If approval is granted only wood may be used in the Bonfire and the location must be at least 50 feet away from any structure or property line.

### **Can I have a gas or wood firepit built into my patio?**

YES, if a building permit is approved by the Township and the location of the firepit is AT LEAST 15 feet away from any structure. A fuel shut off location must be easily accessible in the case of an emergency arises.

### **My neighbor is always burning in their firepit and creating a lot of smoke, I think they might be burning items other than wood. What can I do?**

Sometimes just a friendly neighbor-to-neighbor conversation may be all that is needed to make them aware of your concern or complaint. If this doesn't work, you can call the Office of the Fire Service Director and we will go speak to your neighbor. If it continues to happen, call 911 when it occurs and the Fire Department will respond out and require them to extinguish the fire and activate code enforcement for violating a township ordinance. A \$1,000.00 fine could occur for each incident.

### **I live in an apartment or townhome complex, can I put a gas or charcoal grill on my deck or balcony?**

NO, unless your deck or balcony is protected by an automatic sprinkler system, if it is then the grill should be located as far away from the structure as possible.

### **I live in an apartment or townhome complex; can I use those citybonfires on my deck or balcony?**

Any type of open flame device should not be used on any deck or balcony but if you choose to do so place the device on a stable noncombustible table and never leave it unattended.





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## How do I properly dispose of the ashes from my firepit or fireplace?

The disposal of firepit or fireplace ashes is a serious and ongoing problem because one of the major causes of home fires is the improper disposal of hot fire ashes. Once the fire is put out, many people simply scoop up their ashes and deposit them into their plastic trash container in the garage. But ashes can hold enough heat to ignite a combustible plastic bin or bag even several days later.



Never store or dispose of hot ashes in a combustible plastic trash container. This one simple action is one of the major causes of home fires and has turned many memories of a delightful, cozy evening fire into a disaster. After a few hours in the plastic trash container, the ashes have ignited the trash container and suddenly the garage and house are on fire.

These tips might sound simple, but they can save your house, even your life if you use them to help you dispose of firepit or fireplace ashes safely:

1. **DO NOT** remove hot ashes from the firepit or fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them.
2. **NEVER** put fireplace ashes in a combustible plastic trash container because it can easily ignite. If you must remove the ashes from the firepit or fireplace before they are completely cool, put the ashes and remaining hot embers in a metal bucket. Move the bucket away from the house and garage and well away from anything that is combustible.
3. **ONLY** put firepit or fireplace ashes in your combustible plastic trash container when they are completely cool and after you have put your trash container out on the street for trash pickup.

### Additional Notes

- Please be cognizant of your neighbors and their quality of life. Some people are very sensitive to smoke due to allergies or health conditions. Please keep your fires small and limit the amount of smoke that it creates. Don't forget



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that most people will have their windows open for fresh air during certain months of the year and don't want to be smoked out. Please be a good neighbor so others can enjoy the weather also.

- Avoid using your Chimenea or firepit on windy, dry days. It is easier for the fire to spread out of control when it is windy and dry. Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Watch children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- NEVER use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquid to start a fire. Use the fire starter logs, or another type of fire starter that does not have to potential to off gas and ignite in the air.
- If your clothes catch on fire STOP, DROP to the ground cover your face with your hands and ROLL over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3-5 minutes, cover with a clean, dry cloth and seek medical help if serious.