



Can I have an open air fire for cooking or warmth?

Yes you can, however there are particular requirements for it to be regarded as a fire for cooking or warmth to meet the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and the Greater Bendigo City Council Community Local Law.

A fire that is for cooking or warmth needs to comply with the below criteria:

- Be contained in a barbecue, pizza oven or other manufactured or properly constructed fireplace of stone, metal, concrete or non-flammable material to contain the perimeter of the fire (a free standing 44 gallon drum or similar does not comply)
- Be located three metres away from property boundaries or any building or structure and the site must be clear of flammable material for a radius of 3 metres. The fire cannot be located on a veranda or decking
- Be supervised by an adult at all times while alight and not left unattended at any time
- Ensure the fire does not cause smoke nuisance to neighbours
- Only be lit when wind speeds are less than 15 kph (less than 10 kph during the fire danger period)
- Only be lit with a container of at least 9 litres of water or a charged hose prepared to extinguish the fire if required
- Be of a size less than 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- Ensure only solid dry fuel is used including heat beads, briquettes and dry timber (no leaves, garden waste, paper, cardboard or offensive material)
- Be completely extinguished before the site of the fire is left

Do I need a permit?

- You will need a Local Laws Permit from Council if the fire is to exceed 1 square metre and the fire is for fuel reduction purposes
- Council will only issue an Open Air Burn permit outside the Fire Danger Period (FDP)

On Total Fire Ban Days

✗ Not allowed:

All fires including those intended for cooking or warmth are BANNED on Total Fire Ban Days, including solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens

✓ Allowed:

Barbecues can be used that are:

- Permanently fixed structures built of stone, metal, concrete or another non-flammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation and powered by gas or electricity or

OR

- Gas or electric powered and are designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable barbecues) and when alight are placed in a stable position. Both types of barbecue must meet all of the above specified conditions to comply

The use of incinerators is banned at all times in the City of Greater Bendigo.

For further information contact the City of Greater Bendigo on 1300 002 642 or email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au