

# WORCESTER CITY ALLOTMENTS BONFIRES



## What's Wrong with Bonfires?

### ● Air Pollution

Burning garden waste produces smoke – especially if that waste is green or damp. This will emit harmful pollutants including particles and dioxins. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials creates noxious fumes that give off a range of poisonous compounds.

### ● Health Effects

Air pollution can have damaging health effects, and people with existing health problems are especially vulnerable, e.g., asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, people with heart conditions, children and the elderly.

### ● Annoyance

Smoke, smuts and smell from bonfires have long been a source of a significant number of complaints to local authorities every year.

Smoke prevents neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out, and reduces visibility in the neighbourhood and on roads. Allotments near homes can cause problems if plot holders persistently burn green waste, and leave fires smouldering.

### ● Safety

Fire can spread to fences or buildings and scorch trees and plants. Exploding bottles and cans are a hazard when rubbish is burned.

Piles of garden waste are often used as a refuge by animals, so look out for hibernating wildlife and sleeping pets

Source - [7378 EPUK Bonfires \(environmental-protection.org.uk\)](http://7378.EPUK.Bonfires.environmental-protection.org.uk)

## Bonfire Guidelines:

Tenants are permitted to burn organic material that has originated on the allotment, supervised and in a controlled manner within a garden waste incinerator bin.

Have regard to the effect of the smoke on other Tenants and occupiers of neighbouring premises. Tenants must not allow any fires to burn in such a way as would cause a smoke nuisance.

It is strictly prohibited to burn any of the following materials on the allotment plot:

- Rubber/Plastics/Foam/Paint.
- Treated or tanalised timber (i.e., fence panels, railway sleepers etc)
- Any material originating from outside of the allotment site/plot (i.e., pallets, chairs, sheds etc.).
- Any material producing black smoke.
- Any other hazardous material that could cause environmental damage.

Tenants must not use any liquid, gas or highly flammable material, for example petrol, to assist burning. \*Never use oil, or methylated spirits to light a fire—you could damage yourself as well as the environment

Where requested by a Council Officer, the Tenant must extinguish any fires immediately.

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- Limit the number of bonfires on any allotment site to a reasonable level. Any bonfire needs to be agreed with the site representative, ensuring all guidelines are followed, especially smoke, wind direction onto residential areas and bonfires should not be left unattended.
- Consider other tenants on site and let them know when you intend to light the fire.
- If complaints arise from local residents about a bonfire causing problems for them, especially in relation to COVID effects, then we will look at re-imposing the ban on a site-by-site basis in consultation with the site representative.
- Only have a bonfire if essential and any excess green waste should be composted on site or at home or taken to the local tip before resorting to a bonfire making sure the material is dry
- Smoke hangs in the air on damp days and in the evening; avoid lighting a fire under such conditions.
- Avoid burning on windy days as the prevailing wind direction may blow smoke or sparks directly into neighbouring properties.
- Keep your fire away from trees, fences and buildings
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder—make sure you put it out before leaving
- Avoid burning when air pollution levels in your area are high or very high. You can check air quality on 0800 556677 or at <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk>



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