

A stylized illustration of a campfire. It features several logs arranged in a circle, with a fire burning in the center. The flames are depicted in shades of yellow, orange, and red, with a soft glow around the fire. The background is white.

# How to build a safe campfire

And Leave No Trace that you were  
there in 7 easy steps

**NB – Do not start a camp fire on dry peaty soil or  
during a prolonged dry spell as they can easily cause  
harmful wildfires**

# Step 1 – Prepare your site

- Clear any potentially flammable material by scrapping back long grass to make a bare circle.
- Line the circle with bare soil, or if you are near a river, a bed of flat stones or gravel. This is particularly important to stop the fire spreading to tree roots.





# Step 2 – Contain the fire

- Place an enclosing ring of stones to contain the fire.





# Step 3 – Gather dry tinder & kindling

- Dry grass and leaves make excellent tinder. A tissue also helps.



# Step 4 – Add kindling & light your fire

- Make a pyramid of fine dry twigs, and slightly thicker twigs. Light your fire. You may need to blow gently on your fire to get it properly started.





# Step 5 – Enjoy your fire

- Feed your fire with thicker twigs to burn. Keep fire small and manageable by avoiding logs.

We'd also recommend toasting marshmallows.



# Step 6 – Put your fire out

- Let the fire burn down and spread the ashes out to deprive the last embers of fuel.
- Pour water on the fire to ensure it is out.
- Once cold, scatter the ashes about the site.





# Step 7 – Restore the site

- Place a layer of damp soil over the fire site.
- Return the stones to their original location.
- Replace long grass back over the fire site and scatter on some leaf litter.

