

6l. The information below can be found on the Stratford-on-Avon District Council website:  
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/bonfires.cfm>

Information correct as of 23/06/2020.

## Domestic Bonfires

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We strongly urge people not to light bonfires at this time so as to protect the respiratory health of vulnerable people and to avoid unnecessary burden on the NHS. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and smoke inhalation can increase breathing difficulties for those that are already unwell.

Also, due to restrictions currently in place during the pandemic there are greater numbers of people staying at home . Therefore smoke from a bonfire can cause unnecessary nuisance to your neighbours. We appreciate the inconvenience caused by the closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres, but having a bonfire is not an acceptable way of dealing with excess waste. We are asking you to use your general waste bin if possible. Alternatively stack or bag up rubbish ready for disposal at these centres when the current emergency is over. Please continue to dispose of your household, recyclable and green waste correctly in the receptacles provided.

Under the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#) (EPA), a statutory nuisance includes "smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance" and exists when a bonfire is a regularly recurring problem and interferes substantially with nearby residents' "wellbeing, comfort or enjoyment of their property". If a bonfire is emitting dark or black smoke, it is dealt with under the [Clean Air Act 1993](#) - this includes the burning of such material in your garden. Under the Act, it is illegal to dispose of waste that is not from your property on your property - for example from a workplace or neighbour - and small tradesmen must not burn waste from site at home.

Bonfire guidelines:

- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Only burn dry material.
- Never burn household waste, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic.
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions.
- Position the fire away from buildings, garden hedges, sheds and trees.
- Consider whether you need to notify your neighbour(s).

If you are being affected by smoke from a bonfire, please use the contact details below to report the problem.

**Please note: one-off bonfires are unlikely to constitute a nuisance.**

## Contact

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- Email: [envhealth@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@stratford-dc.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01789 260835
- Report it Online - <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/environmental-health.cfm>