

## The message is...please don't burn rubbish at home

Every year the Council and the Fire Service use up valuable resources dealing with fires in yards and gardens. Think twice before burning. Please, recycle or dispose of your rubbish responsibly – don't burn any rubbish at home. It can be unsafe, it causes pollution and it may be ILLEGAL.

### What's wrong with burning rubbish?

**Fires pose a serious danger** and can cause death, injury or damage to people's property. Each year the Fire and Rescue Service attends many incidents caused by deliberate fires that get out of control.

**Smoke creates pollution** - the burning of waste materials like plastic, rubber or painted wood, damages our health. The fumes are particularly harmful to children, the elderly and people with breathing problems like asthma or bronchitis.

**Smoke spoils people's lives** - preventing neighbours from enjoying their gardens, hanging washing out or opening their windows.

### Domestic Bonfires and the Law

**Smoke Nuisance (Environmental Protection Act 1990)** - If smoke, smell or ash causes a recurring problem in a neighbouring property or garden the Council may serve a legal notice. Failure to comply may result in prosecution.

**Burning Household Waste (Environmental Protection Act 1990)** - Burning domestic waste e.g. plastics, furniture or rubber items, can be an offence and it may result in prosecution and a fine.

**Cable Burning (Clean Air Act 1993)** - The Council will prosecute anybody caught burning plastic covered cable with a view to recovering the metal. This will result in a fine of up to £ 5000.

**Highways Act** - Anyone lighting a fire could be fined if smoke drifts across a road and endangers traffic. This is enforced by the Police.

Stay on the right side of the law. Think twice before burning.

### Having a garden bonfire or using a Chiminea or Firepit

You may be able to burn garden waste like twigs or hedge clippings without causing a nuisance if your fire is small and they are infrequent eg. once or twice a year. Avoid muggy or windy weather, as the smoke won't disperse properly. If the Fire and Rescue Service are called out they may extinguish the fire if it poses a danger.

If you have a chiminea or fire pit please make sure that you use an appropriate fuel, like clean untreated wood, smokeless fuel or charcoal. Don't burn waste. Please remember that the frequent use of a chiminea or a fire pit is more likely to be a nuisance.

### Top Tips:

1. If you have too much waste, or it's too big for your bin, take it to one of our Household Waste and Recycling Centres. See further information on the Council website <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling>.
2. The Council will collect and dispose of most bulky household waste (e.g. furniture) or other items from your home for a small fee. Complete a [Bulky Household Waste Collection Form](#) via 'My Account' your online Council account.
3. Recycle or compost garden waste as it is a more environmentally friendly means of disposal. A collection service is available from the Council for an annual subscription fee via 'My Account'.
4. If your neighbour is having a fire that is causing a problem consider talking to them - they may be unaware of the problem
5. If you're planning to have a fire to burn garden waste:
  - Ask your neighbours beforehand, especially if their washing is out or they're enjoying their gardens.
  - Set the fire well away from property, overhanging trees, cables and combustible materials.
  - Don't use petrol, paraffin or white spirit to start a fire
  - Do not burn aerosol cans, tins of paint or bottles – they can explode and injure bystanders.
  - Don't burn rubber or plastic, foam or paint, and don't burn your general household waste.
  - Shred confidential documents, don't burn them.
  - Put the fire out if smoke or debris is blown onto neighbouring premises. Keep a bucket of water / sand or a hose nearby in case of emergencies
  - Avoid burning at weekends and bank holidays when people are trying to enjoy their gardens.
  - Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder.