

Bonfire Advice, Disposing of Garden Waste



A bonfire can be a convenient way of getting rid of a large amount of waste. However, there may be other options which are better for the environment and your garden.

The following are recommended alternatives to a bonfire:

- Composting soft garden waste such as grass cuttings and leaves is the best means of disposal as it returns nutrients to the soil.
- Woody garden waste cannot be easily composted so may be disposed of by cutting relatively short and packing into your green wheelie bin.
- Large amounts of household and garden waste can be taken to a local household waste and recycling centre.

Alternatively consider hiring a skip from a private company. If you would need to place the skip on the road or pavement rather than in your garden, then you need to obtain a licence from Buckinghamshire Council.

Additionally, the Council's Waste Team can collect bulky items of household refuse e.g. old furniture, mattresses and floor coverings. For more details visit:

www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/bulky-item-collection.

However, if you decide to have a bonfire, we advise you to follow these guidelines to reduce the likelihood of causing a problem:

- **DO** advise your nearest neighbours before you light a bonfire so they can be prepared for any minor inconvenience that may arise.
- **DO** choose the time of day and weather conditions that will cause the least inconvenience to neighbours and passing motorists. Having a bonfire on a warm day or evening when people want to enjoy their garden and tend to have doors and windows open will cause greater annoyance.
- **DO** burn material quickly in small quantities so the minimum amount of smoke is created.
- **DO** be aware of where the smoke is likely to travel, consider your neighbours and roads.
- **DO** choose your bonfire site carefully, well away from trees, boundary fences and windows.

- **DO NOT** burn wet or green garden waste. This will create heavy smoke. Allow clippings to dry and turn brown for a couple of weeks before burning.
- **DO NOT** burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics or other materials that will create heavy smoke or toxic fumes.
- **DO NOT** light a bonfire when your neighbours have washing drying or are out enjoying their gardens or have windows wide open.
- **NEVER** leave a fire unattended

Beware of lighting bonfires when there are unstable weather conditions, for example on very windy days it can so easily get out of control. Have a hose pipe and buckets of water handy just in case.

Hose it down until cold before you leave and then rake the ashes into the soil as a useful fertiliser and prevent them being blown onto your neighbour's property.

Garden Waste Service

The council also offers a garden waste service, which runs annually from February to November and costs as little as £45 per yearly subscription.

Arrange a garden waste collection and save a trip to the tip!

Please visit <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/garden-waste-service> for more information.