

Building a Campfire



Building a Fire Adapted from Drake & Love, The Kids Cottage Book

Campfires are a great way to get together with your family and enjoy some outdoor time! Bring some marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers for s'mores and hot chocolate for a warm treat in the cool night air. It is also a great time to star gaze with your family and try to spot some of the common constellations! In this activity, you will learn how to safely build a campfire.

Materials needed:

- Chopped wood of various sizes, or dry, dead wood from the forest
- A safe place to have a fire
- Water to put out the fire
- Seating around the fire to enjoy

Instructions:

1. Find a safe place to build a fire. Look for a flat rocky area with no overhanging branches. Make three wood piles with the following three sizes of wood:
 - Tinder- Material that will flare up when touched with a match, such as pine needles or birch bark fallen from a tree or little twigs
 - Kindling- Sticks that are the width of a pencil and shorter than your arm
 - Fuel- Logs the width of your arm, remember find them on the ground not on living trees
2. Make a small pile of tinder in the fire area and make a kindling teepee over the tinder. Light the tinder with a match and when the kindling is burning, slowly add the fuel, but not too much or you'll smother the fire. As the fire grows in size, you can add larger pieces of your fuel.

Safety considerations: Parents or Guardians should carefully supervise this activity and make sure all fires are out before leaving the area.

The Provincial Government of B.C. has specific best practices for creating a safe campfire, including:

- Check current campfire restrictions for the area you are in
- Select your campsite and campfire location carefully
- Remove all leaves, twigs and other flammable material from the area around where you plan to light your campfire
- Never have a campfire when it's windy
- Choose a proper fire pit or make a ring of rocks at least three metres from trees, shrubs, structures and debris
- Do not leave a campfire unattended for ANY amount of time
- Keep a bucket of **at least** eight litres of water close by the fire at all time, and/or a hand tool (such as a shovel) to extinguish the fire properly
- Completely extinguish your campfire before you go to sleep or leave the area for any period of time.
- To extinguish your campfire, pour plenty of water on the fire and surrounding area, dousing the site of the campfire thoroughly. Stir the campfire until there are no embers and the ashes are cold to the touch.

For more information, check out the Province of BC's Fire Ban and Restrictions webpage : <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>