

# Burning on private property (including refuse, barbecues and outdoor heaters)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I burn garden refuse and/or rubbish within the City of Joondalup?

No. The burning of garden refuse and/or rubbish is not permitted at any time within the City under the provisions of section 24G of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. This includes the use of an incinerator.

### When am I not permitted to use my barbecue?

The use of solid fuel barbecues is not permitted on private property when a Total Fire Ban has been declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. During a Total Fire Ban, only gas or electric barbecues are permitted.

The use of outdoor cooking appliances, other than City-installed and managed gas and electric barbecues, are not permitted within City parks and reserves.

### When am I not permitted to use my outdoor heater?

The use of solid fuel outdoor heaters, such as a chiminea, are not permitted on private property when a Total Fire Ban has been declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

During a Total Fire Ban, only gas or electric outdoor heaters are permitted.

### What apparatus uses solid fuel?

The adjacent table lists apparatus that use solid fuel to cook and/or heat.

### What is a Total Fire Ban?

A Total Fire Ban is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on days of extreme weather or when widespread fires are stretching firefighting resources. The need for the ban is assessed throughout the day and the ban may be revoked if weather conditions ease.

Check the Emergency WA website at [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au) after 6.00pm to see if a ban has been declared for the next day.

Burning apparatus	Image
44-gallon drum (open)	
Brazier (free-standing open heater)	
Hangi (traditional Maori open fire pit)	
Wood-fired barbecue (open)	
Potbelly stove (outdoors/open or enclosed)	
Fire pit (open/covered)	
Chiminea (semi-enclosed)	
Webber-type barbecue (open or enclosed)	
Wood-fired pizza oven (open or enclosed)	

When a Total Fire Ban is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire. The ban includes all open-air fires, even those in undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts, for the purpose of cooking, heating or camping.

During a Total Fire Ban you cannot do the following in the open-air:

- Light, maintain or use a fire;
- Burn leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings;
- Use an incinerator;
- Use fireworks;
- Grind, weld, solder, gas cut or use any other type of 'hot works';
- Fire up a barbecue that uses solid fuel (wood, charcoal, heat beads); or
- Use an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove.

### How do I check if there is a Total Fire Ban in place?

Use any of the following to check if there is a Total Fire Ban in place:

- Visit the Emergency WA website [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au);
- Visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website [dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans](http://dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans);
- Call 13 DFES **133 337**;
- Call the Total Fire Ban Hotline **1800 709 355**;
- Follow the Department of Emergency Services on Facebook or Twitter;
- Listen to ABC local radio and other media outlets; and
- Look out for Main Roads WA variable message signs.

### Who do I contact about smoke nuisances?

Where a smoke nuisance complaint is received that relates to chimney smoke, the City may request the activity causing the smoke nuisance to cease in accordance with the provisions of section 182(11) of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*.

Backyard cooking or heating apparatus that use solid fuel and therefore may cause a certain amount of smoke is not covered by current legislation.

For more information contact the City's Health and Environmental Services on **9400 4933**.

### What can I do to minimise the impact of smoke to me and my family?

To minimise the impact of smoke from barbecues and outdoor heaters the following are recommended:

- Shut doors and windows;
- Turn off air-conditioners;
- People with asthma, pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses and conditions exacerbated by smoke should take precautions in line with their medical advice; and/or
- Visit the Department of Health website at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)

### What can I do to minimise the impact of smoke to my neighbours?

To reduce the amount of smoke that your barbecue and/or outdoor heater emits the following are recommended:

- Use plenty of kindling and newspaper to quickly establish a bright fire;
- Add logs gradually to a bright hot fire;
- Only burn dry firewood that has been seasoned for at least one–two years; and
- Do not burn chemically treated/painted wood.

### Who do I contact for further information?

For further information on burning on private property, please contact City Rangers on **1300 655 860** or email [info@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@joondalup.wa.gov.au)