

Burning on private property (including garden refuse, barbecues, fire pits and outdoor heaters)

Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. The burning of garden refuse 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 burning garden refuse or rubbish in an incinerator, on the ground, or by using any other apparatus, device or home made construction.

What outdoor cooking and heating apparatus can I use on private property?

The City permits the use of solid fuel barbecues, pizza ovens, chimeneas, fire pits and outdoor wood heaters (see adjacent table for a list of approved apparatus) on private property for the purpose of cooking and heating only, under the following conditions:

- No Total Fire Ban has been declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
- A three metre clearance in radius has been established around the apparatus, clear of flammable material;
- Apparatus is not left unattended when in use;
- Only appropriate solid fuel is used, such as dry firewood, heat beads and coal;
- No burning of garden refuse or rubbish; and
- Recommend smoke is controlled so as not to be a nuisance to your neighbours.

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 after 6.00pm to see if a ban has been declared for the next day.

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.

For further information on Total Fire Bans, visit DFES.

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)	

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](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au);
- Visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website [dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans](https://www.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?

If you are having an issue with smoke that is being emitted from a neighbour's chimney resulting from the incorrect use of a wood heater, pizza oven or similar device, an Environmental Health Officer may be able to assist.

For further information contact the City on **9400 4933**.

Where City officers are unable to assist, the matter may be resolved by bringing all parties together through mediation. The City's mediation service is provided free to residents of the City of Joondalup.

For further information contact the City's Customer Service Relations Advocate on **9400 4942**.

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](https://www.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 appropriate dry firewood or solid fuel, such as heat beads and coal.
- Do not burn chemically treated/painted wood.

Who do I contact for further information?

For further information on burning on private property, contact City Rangers on **1300 655 860** or email info@joondalup.wa.gov.au