

# NUISANCE FROM **GARDEN BONFIRES**



*Bromley*  
THE LONDON BOROUGH  
[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

## What's wrong with a good old fashioned bonfire?...

**A garden bonfire may seem like a practical way of getting rid of garden waste and other rubbish; but they are not usually the most environmentally or neighbour friendly way and most of the waste could be put to better use.**

### Public Nuisance

Each year Bromley Council receives a considerable number of complaints from residents affected by smoke and ash from their neighbours garden bonfire. Smoke and ash prevent your neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows and hanging out washing.

### Air Pollution

Bonfires add to air pollution and can produce poisonous and irritating gases.

### Dangerous

Fire can spread to fences and buildings and also scorch trees and plants.

### Legal Position

There are no bye-laws which control the lighting of bonfires - but under The Environmental Protection Act 1990 smoke and ash from a bonfire causing annoyance to neighbours could be an offence rendering the person having the bonfire liable to prosecution.



# BONFIRE CODE...

Remember it is not illegal to have a bonfire and there are no local bye-laws preventing you having one, however you must not cause a nuisance to your neighbours. A smoky bonfire or having garden bonfires on a frequent basis may well cause a nuisance and that can be an offence.

So, if you want to have the occasional garden bonfire - you will minimise the effect on your neighbours by taking the following precautions...

- Only burn dry materials
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, plastics, foam, paint, treated or painted fence panels/ or wood.
- Never use solvents such as meths or petrol to light or encourage a fire
- Never have a bonfire in unsuitable weather conditions
- Avoid burning at weekends, bank holidays and when neighbours want to enjoy their gardens
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Douse with water if bonfire becomes a nuisance.



## Alternatives to a bonfire...

Consider other ways of getting rid of materials normally put on a bonfire, which are unlikely to upset the neighbours and may also be less harmful to the environment! Options such as composting if done properly will save money in that by making your own compost you can save on purchasing commercial products.

Materials such as glass, paper and aluminium cans should be recycled in one of the many banks available throughout the Borough.

## Collections and Civic Amenity Sites (tips)

With a minimum of effort a good quality home made compost can be produced which can save on buying commercial products.



## What do I need?...

- A compost bin, either home-made or shop bought.
- Somewhere to put it – bare soil preferably.

What can go in it?...	
✓ Weeds and garden trimmings and shredded wood prunings	✗ Meat and fish scraps
✓ Kitchen waste such as raw vegetable peelings; egg shells and tea-bags	✗ Cooked food
✓ Kitchen waste such as raw vegetable peelings; egg shells and tea-bags	✗ Metal, plastic and glass
✓ Old plants and flowers	✗ Nappies
✓ Used bedding from pets such as rabbits	✗ Dog and cat manure
✓ Pure wool jumpers	✗ Large amounts of paper, autumn leaves and wet grass
✓ Straw and farmyard manure.	

## Composting rules...

- Good mix of material
- Cover to protect from rain and retain warmth
- Turn heap now and again, or empty bin, mix and return so air can circulate
- Finished compost can be used around the garden.

Further information on composting and special offers available for compost bins from **Environmental Promotions Unit at Bromley Council on (020) 8313 4510.**

## Collections and Civic amenity sites (tips)

- A chargeable Garden waste collection service is available to collect garden waste direct from your property.
- simply purchase garden waste stickers from main reception at The Civic Centre, libraries or by writing to Green Garden Waste Central Depot, Baths Road, Bromley BR2 9RB. Stick them on your bags of garden waste and place the bags by your front gate.

For more information contact Bromley Council on (020) 8313 4557 or 0800 389 3804.

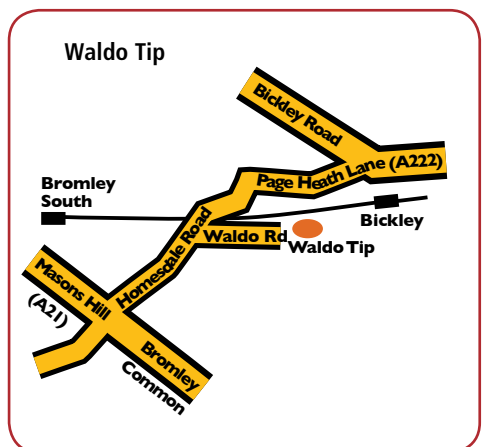
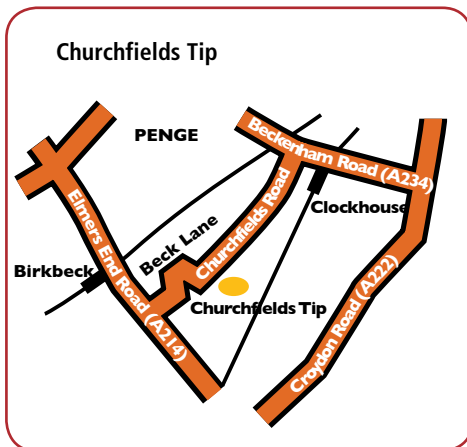
- If you have larger items or large quantities of garden waste to dispose of you can request a Special Collection. Please contact Bromley Council on (020) 8313 4970 for more information.

## Location of Civic amenity sites (tips)

### There are two public tips in Bromley:

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Opening times: 7am - 5.30pm **Mon - Fri**  
7.30am - 4.00pm **Sat**  
8.00am - 1.00pm **Sun**



To reduce queuing try to avoid "busy times" when visiting tips!

## Further Information & advice

### Complaints and advice on bonfires:

Environmental Health and Trading Standards  
**(020) 8313 4830**

Composting Advice  
Environmental Promotions  
**(020) 8313 4557**

Compost Bin Hotline  
**0845 077 00757**

Garden Waste collections  
**Freephone 0800 389 3804**

or

Bromley Council  
**(020) 8313 4557**

