

## Check before you light...

Remember, heaps of garden refuse provide a haven for small animals such as hedgehogs.

Take care to keep children away from a bonfire. Supervise burning as much as possible.

Garden waste can be taken to one of the household waste recycling centres which are located at:

**Bar End Road, Winchester;  
Claylands Road, Bishops Waltham;  
Prospect Road, New Alresford.**

### Opening hours

**WINTER**  
(November-March):  
8.00am - 4.30pm

**SUMMER**  
(April-October):  
8.00am - 7.00pm

If you would like to know more about composting please consult our leaflet Guide to Waste Minimisation and Home Composting.

## Further Information

If you require any further advice or information - please do not hesitate to contact us.



### By Post

Environment Division  
Communities Directorate  
Winchester City Council  
City Offices  
Colebrook Street  
Winchester SO23 9LJ



### By Telephone

01962 840 222



### By Fax

01962 840 586



### By E Mail

[environment@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:environment@winchester.gov.uk)



### Or visit our Website

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk>

If you know someone who would like this information in another format, please telephone: 01962 848 367

Telephone calls may be recorded



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# Bonfires

## What is the Legal Position?

## The Law

Under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, smoke caused by bonfires may be a statutory nuisance and the City Council has powers to take action against those who create a nuisance or allow it to happen. Private individuals are also able to take their own action by complaint to a magistrates' court.

Bonfires which are on land near to roads and causing an inconvenience or a danger to passers-by can also be an offence under the Highways Act 1980.



## What You Should Do

If you have a complaint, it is best to discuss it initially with the person responsible, they may not realise that they are causing a problem. Try to be reasonable, otherwise your discussions are likely to end in further argument.

Explain the details of your complaint and try to agree on a reasonable solution or compromise.

If the situation does not improve, then contact the Environmental Protection team: the telephone number is provided on the back of this leaflet.

## Bonfire Guidelines

- If you have garden rubbish to dispose of, try to compost as much as possible.
- Consider using a shredding machine, which can reduce hardwood materials into a mulch for use on your garden. Shredders can be noisy, so be careful not to replace one nuisance with another.
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.

- Never use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light a fire.
- If you must light a bonfire, ensure that the material to be burnt is dry. This will minimise the amount of smoke produced.
- Do not light a fire when the weather conditions might cause the smoke to travel into your neighbours' garden or property.
- Remember that smoke will hang in the air on a damp, windless day and in the evening around sunset.
- Position any bonfire as far away from buildings as possible. Don't light a fire if the wind will carry the smoke over roads.
- Never leave a fire to smoulder - put it out with water or soil.

