



## The Law

Smoke from a bonfire can cause offence. Persistent offenders can be issued with a Community Protection Warning Notice (CPW/N) if breached a fixed penalty notice of £100 or a fine up to £2500, or unlimited fine for a business/commercial properties.

## Further Information

If you are affected by smoke from a neighbour's bonfire or require further advice please contact Environmental Protection on 01273 294266.

Environmental Protection  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
2nd Floor, Bartholomew House  
Bartholomew Square, BN1 1JP  
Tel. 01273 294 266

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/environment/noise-pollution-and-air-quality/how-reduce-pollution-bonfires>

<https://www.mumsforlungs.org/our-campaigns/wood-burning>

Email: [ehl.environmentalprotection@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:ehl.environmentalprotection@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



## Who lives in your garden?



Check for hedgehogs and other wildlife such as nesting birds that might be using the pile before lighting your bonfire.



Organic compost and garden arisings can be used to make great habitat homes for encouraging wildlife into your gardens and so don't need to be burnt.



The nutrients from the decomposing plants are valuable to go back into the soil and ground.



Fire can also significantly damage the soil ecology and plant species long term.

# Bonfires

## Advice to households



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

## Are they necessary?

Smoke from a bonfire can cause a nuisance to your neighbours. It can be distressing to persons suffering with asthma or bronchial problems. Bonfires also impact on the general air quality throughout the city.

- Burn dry wood only – damp or green wood produces much more smoke and carbon emissions.
- Construct your bonfire with plenty of space for air in the pile so that it burns hotter and faster – it will produce less smoke and carbon emissions.

Remember: check with your surrounding neighbours before lighting a bonfire or BBQ.

We recommend not having a bonfire.

## Good bonfire practice



**Site bonfire in a remote area of the garden away from trees and fences.**



**Consider your neighbours!**

- do neighbours have washing out?
- are they using their gardens?
- are their windows open?



**Never leave a bonfire unattended.**



**Douse fire once material is consumed by the fire to avoid smouldering.**



**Burn only small amounts of dry garden waste.**



**Remember: It can be an offence to cause a smoke nuisance to your neighbours.**



**Never use oil, petrol or methylated spirits to light a fire – you could damage yourself as well as the environment.**



**If the ground is very dry or parched fires might spread faster than expected.**

## Getting rid of rubbish

Domestic rubbish will be accepted free of charge at Council Civic Amenity Sites. For details of locations and opening times contact Veolia South Downs on 08453 550 550, who manage our recycling sites. Or <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-streets>

Think of a more sustainable way to recycle your garden waste without using a bonfire.



Compost organic /garden waste. Consider hiring a chipper for large amounts of green waste or join a community composting scheme. <https://www.recyclenow.com/how-to-recycle/how-to-set-up-home-composting>



and sign up for garden waste collections <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/gardenwaste>

## Toxic fumes

When burnt, seemingly harmless domestic wastes can produce toxic fumes. Such materials include plastics, foam, paint, rubber, shipboard, plywoods and wood treated with paint or varnish. Some of these toxins are known to be carcinogenic.

