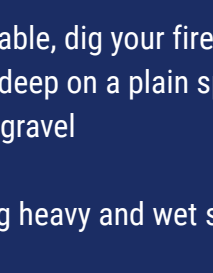


How To Build A Campfire Like A Pro

Safety Is Paramount

thecampingman
Sporting



- Your kids must stay at a safe distance (at least four feet) from the campfire
- Adults must not leave the kids unattended when the campfire is on
- Don't play with fire
- Check the safety rules and regulations of the area of the campground
- Find out "Fire Danger Level" on the roads or ranger & Avoid burning the campfire if the arrow directing towards yellow, orange, or red
- Don't build a campfire on dry grass or under low-hanging branches or close to any wooden structure
- Never use the grass as your fire bed
- Use only plain ground for campfire

- Use the fire area, if any, allocated for campfire by the campsite
- If not available, dig your fire pits of at least 1 Ft. deep on a plain spot consists of sand or gravel
- Avoid using heavy and wet stones
- Your fire site should be all stone or dirt
- Leave some space for airflow
- The distance between your fire pit and the tents, trees, etc. should be min 10-15 Ft
- Observe the direction of the wind to ensure that you have no explosive stuff in the same direction

Types of Fuel

Tinder

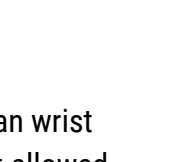
- Cardboard strips or pieces
- Newspaper / Wadded up paper
- Small Twigs
- Needles
- Wood chips or shavings
- Dryer lint
- Pine needles
- Dry leaves or grass
- Candle wax
- Commercial fire starters, sticks or bricks
- Shredded Bark
- Dried Moss

Kindling

- Small sticks, larger than tinder and smaller than firewood
- They shouldn't be huge
- It shouldn't be more than one inch in diameter
- You can even use paper towel rolls and pine cones as kindling
- Your kindling should be as dry as possible so it burns quickly

Firewood

- Oak
- Birch
- Maple
- Beech
- Cherry or Black Cherry
- Ash



General Tips For Fuel

- Check if it's mandatory to use only local firewood in the campground
- Avoid carrying the firewood if campsite distance is more than 50 miles
- Don't cut down the live trees or branches of the live trees or even dead trees as it will affect the wildlife

- Avoid firewood thicker than wrist as those are generally not allowed to burn
- You should avoid wet or green wood as it will just produce a lot of smoke
- Try to stock more tinder, kindling, and firewood than what you may think you need
- You must follow Leave No Trace principles while gathering wood



Types of Campfire

Teepee/ Cone

Log Cabin/ Parallel

Pyramid/ Platform/ Upside Down

Lean-to Fire Lay

Star Fire

Teepee / Cone Fire

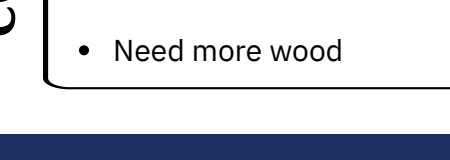
Pros

- Very high temperature
- Easy maintenance
- Warm-up in a short period
- Can work with green or damp wood

Cons

- Woods burn fast which is why a lot of firewood needed
- Not ideal for cooking

Log Cabin / Parallel Fire



PROS

- Ideal for cooking
- Less attention needed
- Produces a lot of hot coals

CONS

- Less temperature than a teepee
- It takes more time to build
- Need more wood

Pyramid / Platform Fire



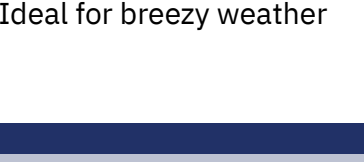
PROS

- The pyramid campfire is ideal for cooking the food
- The fire last for a longer time
- Needs very little attention

CONS

- Needs more woods
- Creates longer fire which may not be safe for wildlife
- Can't add more woods later

Lean-to Fire Lay



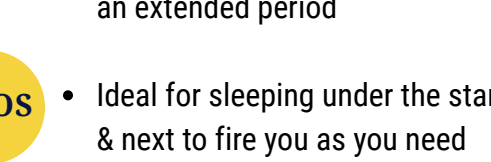
PROS

- Ideal for breezy weather

CONS

- Temperature is somewhat less
- Not suitable for cooking

Star Fire



- Consistent fire that can burn for an extended period

PROS

- Ideal for sleeping under the star & next to fire you as you need more heat

CONS

- It's quick and easy to get extinguished.
- It's not the best fire for cooking

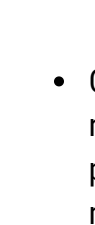
Lighting The Fire



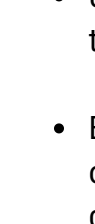
Matches or Lighters are the best tools to light the campfire



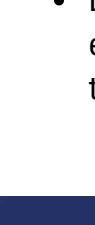
Cigarette lighters are not ideal for firing the tinder



Carry waterproof matches or fire starters



It's a dangerous idea to use diesel, gasoline, etc. to light the fire



Light the campfire from all the sides to get the best result



Blowing softly boosts the flames' strength & help burn the larger pieces of wood



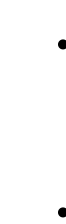
While the fire is on, push the coals to the center so it gets reduced to ashes



Keep a watch on the fire to keep it under your control & continue to feed it



Keep adding the tinder and kindling unless the larger logs start burning



Don't add too much kindling or firewood in haste to keep the fire under control

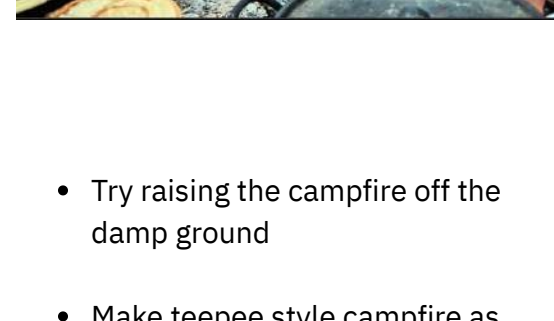


An ideal and suggested size is 2' x 2' x 2'

Campfire With Wet Wood

- Carry Alternative Fire-Starters like old newspaper, Cotton balls soaked in petroleum jelly, waterproof lighter or matches, etc.
- Use a waterproof container for packing these fire-starters
- Bring dead leaves, spruce, pines, or other needle-bearing trees as these catch fire very quickly
- Dry green beneath the awnings of the evergreen trees can be handy to light the fire in wet conditions

- Split the kindling and firewood
- Light the fire from the side wind is blowing



- Try raising the campfire off the damp ground
- Make teepee style campfire as its fire dehydrates the wood easily
- Place the firewood around the fire to dry them out before putting them on the fire

Putting the Campfire Out



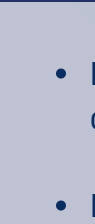
Allow yourself enough time before you begin to extinguish the campfire



Start extinguishing at least 20 minutes before you slip under the sleeping bag



Put the fire out if no one is actively using it or monitoring it



Let the wood burn completely to ash if you could



You must keep a lot of water with you for safety



Resist the temptation to pour all the water on the campfire as it may flood the pit

Sprinkle water on the fire and then stir the ashes with a stick or shovel

Best Campfire for Cooking



- Lean-to or Teepee style fire is ideal for cooking with skewers or sticks
- If you are carrying pans and pots with you, you should use a Pyramid or Platform type fire
- You can roast the potato covered with foil
- Cook the veggies like eggplant, onion, garlic, and different fruits naked under hot ashes or on the bed of coals

Leave No Trace

- Follow the "Leave No Trace" principles & other local rules & regulations
- Pack all kind of left out trash from your pit before you leave
- Avoid burning any trash that can't be turned into ash
- Never burn cans, foil, or plastic
- Demolish the structure you have erected
- Put the ashes in a bag and scatter them around the campsite.
- Collect the left out charcoal pieces away from the site, break them, and spread in a far-reaching area

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