

ALLOTMENT FIRE CODE OF PRACTICE

Although fires are permitted on allotments from 1 November to 31 March, it is essential that this code of practice is strictly followed.

Each year, Urban Green Newcastle & Newcastle City Council receives numerous complaints about smoke from allotment fires, which can cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents, and unnecessary air pollution.

If you cause a nuisance by having a fire, you could find yourself being prosecuted for breaking the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Urban Green Newcastle & Newcastle City Councils Environmental Health Team always tries to sort out fire complaints without using formal legal procedures, however, if fires are being lit persistently, following warnings, your association could be taken to court and face a fine of £5000.

Where possible the burning of green waste should be avoided and instead the green waste should be turned into valuable garden compost.

1. BONFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 31 OCTOBER
2. Always dry materials before burning them. Fires of wet materials produce far more smoke than a quick hot fire of dry material.
3. Never use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light a fire, and make sure that the fire is located in a safe place.
4. Before you light a fire, check which way the wind is blowing, to make sure smoke will not blow directly into neighbouring buildings or over roads.
5. Contact your neighbours before lighting a fire, so they can close windows and get washing in.
6. In foggy weather or late in the evening, avoid lighting fires as smoke will not disperse easily under these conditions.
7. DO NOT BURN PLASTICS, TREATED OR PAINTED TIMBER OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL THAT ALSO GIVES OFF TOXIC FUMES.
8. One fire on a site causes less nuisance than two or three. Therefore, wherever possible try to arrange dates when the site will have a communal fire – possibly bonfire night.
9. If Urban Green Newcastle receives repeated and valid complaints about a particular allotment site, a fire ban will be introduced on that site.
10. All allotment association committees must see that this code of practice is followed by all members.