

## Fire types and their status

This fact sheet tells you about:

- what types of fires you can and can't light during restricted and prohibited fire seasons:
- the conditions you must meet when you light one.

Fire type	Description	Conditions you need to follow for the fire type to be considered authorised	Restricted season	Prohibited season
Gas-operated appliances	Manufactured gas-operated appliances, such as barbecues, gas outdoor fireplaces and outdoor gas heaters	Find out more about the safe use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• barbecues and gas cylinders – <a href="https://www.fireandemergency.nz">fireandemergency.nz</a> &gt; BBQs and gas cylinders</li> <li>• outdoor gas-operated appliances – <a href="https://www.checkitslaright.nz">checkitslaright.nz</a> &gt; Outdoor gas cookers.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type
Charcoal barbecues or grills	Barbecues or grills that use either charcoal briquettes or natural lump charcoal as their fuel source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't use on an apartment balcony, deck, under a roof overhang or within other enclosed areas.</li> <li>• You must have a suitable way to extinguish the fire within easy reach – a maximum of 5 metres away.</li> <li>• You must not leave unsupervised while burning.</li> <li>• If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type
Open top liquid fuel cooker	Examples include (but are not limited to) portable smokers. These are usually small portable cooking devices that are liquid-fueled with an open fuel container either under or in the cooking device.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be on a non-combustible area/base.</li> <li>• You must have a suitable way to extinguish the fire within easy reach a maximum of 5 metres away.</li> <li>• Don't light your fire within 3 metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>• You must not leave unsupervised while burning.</li> <li>• If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type

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Non-pressurised liquid-fueled heaters	Examples include (but are not limited to) frost pot, smudge pot, diesel heater. Usually fueled by diesel, vegetable oil, kerosene or waste oil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 3 metres clear of any of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>• Must be placed on a non-combustible surface, not directly on grass or wooden decks.</li> <li>• You must not use the heater in small, confined areas.</li> <li>• If refuelling, ensure heater has cooled down before refilling.</li> <li>• You must not leave unsupervised while burning.</li> <li>• If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type
Permanent outdoor fireplace Wood-fired pizza oven/wood oven	Purpose-built or manufactured woodburning fireplace/wood oven with an open front and a vertical smoke vent/chimney. Generally constructed of concrete, concrete blocks, stone, or bricks, fixed in place (not mobile/movable). Usually in home outdoor entertaining areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have a non-combustible hearth or base that extends a minimum of 500 mm either side of the left and right edges and a minimum of 1 m from the front edge of the fire box. This is to stop any burning material falling from the fire box landing onto anything combustible.</li> <li>• Smoke vent/chimneys must have a purpose-built manufactured cap, or maximum 5 mm steel mesh fitted in the top to stop any hot ash or embers from escaping.</li> <li>• Firewood storage must be in areas not affected by heat from the fire and clear of any possible hot ash or ember-affected areas.</li> <li>• You must have a suitable way to extinguish the fire within easy reach a maximum of 5 metres away.</li> <li>• You must not leave unsupervised while burning, or</li> <li>• It must have a solid or mesh screen/door, that prevents any burning material from escaping the fire box</li> <li>• Fireplaces with external construction made of steel must be at least 1 metre clear of any of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>• If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type

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Movable/ portable free-standing front-loading fireplace.	Examples include (but are not limited to) <b>chiminea</b> .  A freestanding front-loading fireplace or oven usually with a bulbous body – usually has a vertical smoke vent or chimney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within three metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>You must have a suitable way to extinguish that will easily reach it, a maximum of five metres away.</li> <li>You must not leave unsupervised while burning or</li> <li>It must have a solid or mesh screen/door that prevents any burning material from escaping the fire box.</li> <li>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type
Cultural cooking fires	Examples include hāngi, umu, and lovo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your fire area must be less than 4 square metres.</li> <li>Don't light your fire within 5 metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>You must have a suitable way to extinguish it within easy reach a maximum of 5 metres from your cultural fire.</li> <li>You must not leave the fire unsupervised while burning.</li> <li>On completion of cooking or the purpose required for cooking food the fires must be extinguished.</li> <li>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> <li>Find out more about the safe use of cultural cooking fires – <a href="https://fireandemergency.nz">fireandemergency.nz</a> &gt; <a href="#">Traditional or cultural use of fire</a>.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Authorised fire type
Braziers	A container for hot coals – usually an upright standing or hanging metal bowl or box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your fire area must be less than one square metre.</li> <li>Where hot embers/ash are able to escape, there must be a non-combustible base/tray that will contain these hot embers/ash to prevent any risk of fire escaping.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Prohibited fire type*
Fire pits/bowls (Recreational)	A pit dug in the ground, made from stone, brick or metal; or a bowl on an upright stand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within 3 metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>You must have a suitable way to extinguish it within easy reach a maximum of 5 metres from your brazier or fire pit/bowl.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Prohibited fire type*

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must not leave unsupervised while burning.</li> <li>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>		
Manufactured or drum incinerators	A drum or container, with a mesh or solid lid designed to prevent the escape of hot ash or fire, often with a vertical smoke vent or chimney; designed exclusively for incineration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't light your fire within 5 metres of any part of a building, hedge, shelter belt or any other combustible material.</li> <li>You must have a suitable way to extinguish it within easy reach – a maximum of 5 metres from your incinerator.</li> <li>Smoke vent/chimneys must have a purpose-built manufactured cap or maximum 5 mm steel mesh fitted in the top to stop any hot ash or embers from escaping.</li> <li>If you cannot meet these conditions, you must apply for a permit.</li> </ul>	Authorised fire type	Prohibited fire type*
Campfires	A fire (less than 0.5 m diameter x 0.5 m height) at a campsite that provides light, warmth, and heat for cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out more about how to use campfires safely – <a href="https://fireandemergency.nz/camping-and-campfires">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Camping and campfires</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*
Bonfires	A large but controlled outdoor fire, used for recreation or celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out about how to use bonfires safely – <a href="https://fireandemergency.nz/lighting-bonfires">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Lighting bonfires</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*
Burn piles/pits	Burning cut and stacked vegetation. Includes horticulture branch/piles, offal pits or land clearing heaps for disposing of burnable waste material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out about how to use burn piles or pits safely – <a href="https://fireandemergency.nz/pile-and-windrow-burns">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Pile and windrow burns</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*

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Crop residue/ stubble burns	Burning straw stubble or crop residue that remains after wheat and other grains have been harvested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out about how to burn crop residue or stubble safely – <a href="#">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Crop residue or stubble burns</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*
Broadcast land clearing burns	Fire applied generally to most or all of an area within well-defined boundaries to remove grass, scrub or forest cut-over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out about how to carry out land-clearing burns safely – <a href="#">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Fire as a land management tool</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*
Windrows	Burning of vegetation that is placed in long narrow rows, generally as a result of forest or scrub clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.</li> <li>Find out about how to carry out pile and windrow burns safely – <a href="#">fireandemergency.nz &gt; Pile and windrow burns</a>.</li> </ul>	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*
Other	Fires not captured in other fire types. Examples include but are not limited: to fires for biosecurity or public health, planned structure fires.	You must comply with the conditions on your permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.	Permit required	Prohibited fire type*