

If you still feel that you must burn please take note of the following guidelines:-

- Only burn dry material;
- Never burn household rubbish;
- Rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint;
- Never use oil, petrol etc to light the fire or encourage it;
- Consider wind direction and weather conditions;
- Be considerate to others, avoid burning at weekends, and on Bank Holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens;
- Warn neighbours in advance so that they can take in washing, close windows etc;
- Never leave a fire unattended or smouldering - douse with water if necessary.

My neighbour is having regular bonfires which are causing a nuisance, what can I do?

Consider approaching your neighbour and explaining politely that you are being disturbed by smoke/ odour from their bonfire. We can investigate your complaint, particularly in relation to regular occurrences.



Can I burn wood within a smoke control area?

Wood **cannot** be generally used as fuel in smoke control areas.



There are however **exceptions to this rule** where wood can be burnt on a specially designed appliance known as an '**exempted appliance**'.

These appliances are designed to operate smokelessly and have been tested and approved for use. When purchasing a new appliance you should check with us that the appliance is approved - do not rely on the information provide by a salesperson who may not be familiar with the current legal standards.

It must be stressed that the **exempted appliance** must be **used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and with the recommended fuel.**

Environmental Health Unit

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Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environmental Health
SMOKE CONTROL
AREAS



Telephone No:
01642 526575

Smoke Control

Smoke Control Areas are designed to control emissions from domestic chimneys caused by the burning of coal and wood inside domestic dwellings. The smoke control programme was completed some years ago and we obtained dramatic reductions in smoke and sulphur dioxide levels at ground level.

Most properties within the Borough are within a smoke control area. The rural areas of the Borough are NOT covered by the smoke control programme - these include the following villages/settlements :-Aislaby, Carlton, Elton, Grindon, Hilton, parts of Ingleby Barwick, Kirklevington, Longnewton, Redmarshall, Stillington, Thorpe Thewles, Urlay Nook, Whinney Hill and Wynyard.



Only 'authorised smokeless fuels' are allowed to be used within a smoke control area. However some types of coal and wood can be burnt in smoke control areas but only on specially designed appliances which appear on a list of exempted fireplaces in the legislation.



Authorised Smokeless Fuels include solid smokeless fuels (such as coke, Coalite, Sunbrite etc), gas and oil. Your fuel supplier will be able to advise you on the most suitable fuel for your heating/cooking appliance.

If you wish to install such a fireplace please contact us so that we can provide you with further advice. A full list of exempted fireplaces can be found on our website.

What fuels can I use on my fire in a smoke control area?

Only authorised "smokeless fuels" are allowed to be used within a smoke control area unless you use an exempted appliance, these include solid smokeless fuels, gas and oil.

I want to have a garden bonfire how do I ensure that it does not annoy or cause a nuisance to my neighbours?

Check out our leaflet on Garden Bonfires or consider alternative methods of disposal such as:

- Composting garden waste

For more advice and equipment contact the Environment Centre
21 West Row, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1BT
Tel: 01642 528143
Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday 9am - 3:30pm

- Arrange a special collection of the waste
- Using the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill, Billingham
Tel: 01642 391959

Summer period

1st April - 31st October 8am - 7pm.

Open 7 days per week.

Winter period

1st November - 31st March 8am - 6pm.

Open 7 days per week.

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Is it an offence to have a bonfire?

There is no outright ban on having bonfires, however if smoke or odour is found to be causing a statutory nuisance to neighbours formal action may be taken.

