

LEAVE NO TRACE #5

ISSUE NO 5 | MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACT



HOW TO BUILD A MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPFIRE

Collect mineral soil, sand, or gravel from an already disturbed source. The root hole of a toppled tree is one such source. Lay a ground cloth on the fire site and then spread the soil into a circular, flat-topped mound at least 3 to 5 inches thick. The thickness of the mound is critical to insulate the ground below from the heat of the fire. The ground cloth or garbage bag is important only in that it

makes cleaning up the fire much easier. The circumference of the mound should be larger than the size of the fire to allow for the spreading of coals. The advantage of the mound fire is that it can be built on a flat exposed rock or an organic surface.

ARE CAMPFIRES OK?

Yes, campfires are a great way to keep warm and provide light in the dark, they are also useful for cooking. It is the overuse and unnecessary use of campfires that are ill-advised.

HOW TO CLEAN UP AFTER A CAMPFIRE

Burn all wood to white ash, grind small coals to ash between your gloved hands, thoroughly soak with water, and scatter the remains over a large area away from camp. Ashes may have to be packed out in river corridors.

Fires vs. Stoves

The use of campfires, once a necessity for cooking and warmth, is steeped in history. Because the natural appearance of many areas has been degraded by the overuse of fires and the demand for firewood. The development of lightweight camp stoves has encouraged a shift away from the cooking fire. Stoves are fast and don't need firewood. Stoves operate in almost any weather condition and they Leave No Trace.



Tip

When building a fire make sure to clear away all flammable materials in a 5 foot radius of the pit. This will help prevent the spread of fire.



WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN BUILDING A FIRE...

When building a fire it is important to be aware of the rules and regulations of the local land managing agency. It is also important to take into consideration the use of wood. So it is important to make sure there is sufficient wood in the area so that taking a little fire is unnoticeable.

