

## Do I need a Burn Permit?

A permit is not required if your recreational fire meets **all** the requirements of By-Law 3072.

However, if you cannot meet the requirements of this by-law, you may request a Burn Permit.

The Fire Chief, or designate, will review your situation and evaluate the safety and potential impact to neighbours and property prior to issuing a permit.

## Who can I contact if I have questions about By-Law 3072?

If you have questions about open-air fires, please contact Tillsonburg Fire and Rescue Services at:

**fire@tillsonburg.ca** or  
519-688-3009 ext. 4912

## Who can I contact if I have a concern or a complaint?

If you have a concern or complaint regarding an open-air fire, please contact Tillsonburg Fire Communications by phone at **519-842-3229**.

This line is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*\*Please do not call 911 unless the fire is a life-threatening emergency.*



**Tillsonburg Fire & Rescue Services**  
80 Concession Street E.  
Tillsonburg, Ontario  
N4G 4Z8



# Recreational Fires

A Guide to By-Law 3072



What you need to consider before  
you have a backyard fire

**Tillsonburg**

## Can I have a campfire or outdoor cooking fire in Tillsonburg?

Open-air burning is regulated in the Town of Tillsonburg by By-Law 3072.

In general, you are allowed to have a recreational fire or a outdoor cooking fire if certain requirements are met.

Some of these requirements include:

- Containing your fire in a non-combustible container or pit specifically designed for open-air burning
- Ensuring your fire is located away from combustible structures or objects
- Ensuring your fire and the resulting smoke is not a nuisance to your neighbours. If there are complaints from neighbours, your fire may be required to be extinguished, even if all other conditions are met.

A recreational or outdoor cooking fire is only allowed between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

Fires are not permitted when wind speeds exceed 15 kph, or during rainy/foggy conditions.

From time to time, an open-air burn ban may be declared due to dry conditions or poor air quality.

## Where can I locate my fire?

The fire must be contained within a non-combustible container or pit no larger than 61 cm by 61 cm (2 ft by 2 ft).

This container should be specifically designed for open-air burning and may include devices such as outdoor brick fireplaces, chimineas, metal tubs or fire pits.

- The fire must be a minimum of three (3) metres (9.84 ft) from combustible structures or objects.
- The fire must be kept at least five (5) metres (16.4 feet) in all directions from adjacent properties.
- You must take steps to ensure the byproducts of open-air burning do not have a negative impact on persons, pets or the environment.
- The fire shall be covered with a heavy metal screen having mesh openings no larger than 13 mm (0.5 in) to limit the potential escape of sparks and ash.



## What can I burn?

Open air burning poses risks to the environment and public health. Burning anything outdoors pollutes the air we breathe.

- Only clean, dry, seasoned firewood or commercially produced charcoal or briquettes may be burned.
- Yard waste, garbage or other materials should not be burned at any time. Please see [www.tillsonburg.ca/transferstation](http://www.tillsonburg.ca/transferstation) for disposal options.
- The dimensions of the fuel should not be greater than 1 cubic foot and must be totally confined to the container/pit.

## Other safety considerations

- An effective extinguishing agent (e.g. water, sand or other) must be close at hand.
- You must attend the fire at all times until it is completely extinguished.
- Renters/tenants are encouraged to obtain written permission from their landlord or property owner prior to conducting any open-air fires.

## What if people complain about my fire?

If your fire does not meet all the requirements outlined in this brochure, the owner of the property may be charged \$509.89 in accordance with the Town of Tillsonburg 2022 Rates and Fees By-Law.

The full by-law is available at  
[www.tillsonburg.ca/burn](http://www.tillsonburg.ca/burn)