

SOUTHBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL: BONFIRES, WASTE DISPOSAL & COMPOSTING

This leaflet has been produced as a supplementary document to the Southborough Town Council Allotment Terms and Conditions, in order to assist allotment plot holders with waste disposal. Please refer to the Allotment Terms and Conditions in the first instance. If any of the clauses in the Terms and Conditions are not adhered to, it may result in a Tenancy Termination Notice being issued. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows local councils to take offenders to court, should their bonfires cause a nuisance to neighbouring local residents.

DO

- Before you decide to start a bonfire, consider whether you can dispose of the waste in another way E.G. Bag up, take home and place in your green waste recycling bin, take to your local civic amenity tip, or compost. Most garden waste can be composted and is too valuable to burn.
- As a gesture of courtesy, advise other plot holders nearby before you light a bonfire.
- Always check your bonfire incinerator and intended material for burning, for any signs of wildlife that may be hiding there.
- Make sure your bonfire incinerator is well maintained and in good condition. See the adjacent pictures. Incinerators in a poor condition represent a hazard and if found to be in use, could result in a Tenancy Termination Notice.
- Check the weather and wind conditions before you start a fire. Smoke hangs in the air on damp days and evenings, and lighting fires on windy days could blow smoke or sparks/embers towards other plots and houses.

NEVER

- **NEVER** burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics or other materials that create heavy smoke or toxic fumes. **DO NOT** burn anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
 - **NEVER** use any accelerants or flammable substances.
 - **NEVER** start a fire on a windy day, or in hot, dry, drought conditions.
 - **NEVER** start an open fire. **Always use a bonfire incinerator.**
- NEVER** leave a bonfire unattended and wait for all material to be burned down before leaving the site. Use soil or sand to smother the fire. **DO NOT** use water to douse the fire, as this can add heat to the ashes, which could reignite after you have left.



Only bonfire incinerators can be used and should be in good condition.



Bonfire incinerators in this state are not acceptable.



You can buy a composting bin, or build your own compost heap from wood. e.g. old pallets. See photo to right.

THINK OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND GET COMPOSTING!

Southborough Town Council encourage composting and recycling over bonfires, whether on your own compost area, via your green waste recycling bin, or the local recycling depot at your civic amenity tip.

It is ideal to have two compost areas, one for the current season's plant waste and one for the previous season.

A compost heap needs a good balance of carbon, nitrogen, air, and water, to produce the nutrient-rich, black, organic material that you can dig back into your soil to feed your crops.

An efficient heap can produce good compost in 9-12 months and the longer you leave it, the richer and darker it will be. This is why it is a good idea to have two heaps in use.



Traditional compost heap made from wood.

For more information on how to create a composting area, including size guidance and ideal mix of materials, please click on the following links, or visit their websites and search "composting":

- [Royal Horticultural Society](#)
- [National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners \(NSALG\)](#)

