Fire Pits, Fire Bowls, Chimneas and Other Outdoor Receptacles

Updated Dec 2023
A person may not set an open air fire unless a permit has been issued by the Winnipeg Fire Prevention Branch (see the following exceptions).

A Permit is not required for:
- fires within an approved receptacle on a residential property;
- fires for ceremonial or religious purposes within an approved receptacle;
- portable barbeques operated in conformance with the manufacturer’s instructions;
- appliances that are approved by the Canadian Gas Association (CGA);
- fires permitted by the City as fixtures in campgrounds or parks owned by the City of Winnipeg;
- burning conducted by the Winnipeg Fire Department for the purpose of training.

Approved Fire Pit Must
- be enclosed on all sides and constructed of masonry, concrete, heavy gauge metal or other noncombustible materials;
- be at least 15 cm (6 in) in height above the surrounding grade but no more than 60 cm (24 in) in depth when measured from the top of the pit opening to the bottom of the pit;
- have an opening that does not exceed 75 cm (2.5 ft) in diameter or an area of .56 m² (6 ft²) and in which neither the width nor length is greater than 75 cm (2.5 ft);
- have a spark arrestor, grille or mesh with openings no larger than 12 mm (1/2 in) and which is used to cover the entire area of the fire pit opening;
- have a cooking surface which does not exceed 75 cm (2.5 ft) in diameter or an area of .56 m² (6 ft²), and in which neither the width nor length is greater than 75 cm (2.5 ft);

Open Fires Must
- Be supervised by a person 18 years of age;
- Be kept under control;
- Have a supply of water, sand or means of extinguishing the fire readily accessible;
- Never cause;
  - reduced visibility on roads;
  - spread of fire beyond approved containment.
- Not be set when the wind exceeds 25 km
- Be at least 3 metres (10 feet), from any combustible buildings, structures, fences, trees, overhead wires, etc;
- Only burn clean, dry, unpainted and untreated wood and no grass, leaves, brush or tree prunings.
- Be in an approved receptacle only.

An Approved Outdoor Fireplace Must
- be constructed of masonry, concrete, or heavy gauge metal;
- have a chimney as part of the fireplace
- have chimney opening covered by a spark arrester, with openings less than 12 mm (1/2 in);
- have a side opening to the fire chamber less than 0.56 m²(6 ft²) in area, or 75 cm (2.5 ft) in width or length;
- have side opening covered by a spark arrester, with openings no larger than 12mm (1/2 in);

An Approved Outdoor Barbeque Must
- be constructed of masonry, concrete, heavy gauge metal;
- be enclosed on all sides, with openings covered by spark arrestor, with openings no larger than 12 mm (1/2 in);
- have a cooking surface more than 75 cm (2.5 feet) and less than 120 cm (4 ft) above the ground level;
- have a cooking surface less than 75 cm (2.5 ft) in diameter or .56 m² (6 ft²) in area;

Warming Fire Must
- must be a metal receptacle in good repair
- maximum capacity of 225 litres (50 gallons)
- all openings covered by spark arrestors, with openings less than 12 mm (1/2 in)