



Minimising Smoke Nuisances

The Shire of Kalamunda prides itself on its environment, but unfortunately wood fires and the burning of garden waste sometimes produces excessive smoke, can cause discomfort to neighbours and contributes to the pollution haze over Perth. People undertaking burning activities need to be mindful of the legislative requirements and ensure they are not creating a nuisance. Below are some guidelines on both burning off and operating wood heaters.

Burning Of Garden Material

We would like to enlist your support in reducing potential Smoke Nuisances by observing the following:

1. The most efficient way to burn is with a **HOT, WELL-AERATED FIRE**, so to minimise the creation of smoke.
2. Material to be burnt must be **ORGANIC** and **DRY**.

We also suggest that you notify your neighbours of your intention to burn. Awareness of wind direction and speed will also assist you in protecting amenity of your neighbourhood and the health and safety of residents.

Under the **Bush Fires Act 1954** the following restrictions apply:

- A permit is required during the 'restricted burning season',
- No burning may be conducted during the 'prohibited burning season',
- You may burn material using an approved incinerator or by burning a single pile of material in a clearing of 5m radius from the fire on any day that is not a day of **Very High** or **Extreme** fire danger during the unrestricted burning period.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BURNING OCCUR ON DAYS OF
VERY HIGH OR EXTREME FIRE DANGER**

Please note that burning material at anytime, which creates a smoke nuisance is an offence under the Health Act

Burning Off is Not Your Only Option

1. What Can I Place in My Wheelie Bin?

All household and garden refuse can be placed in the bin, but it cannot be used for hot or cold ashes, rocks, soil, liquids, solvents or heavy materials that may overload or damage the bin. The bin cannot exceed 70 kilograms in weight and must be placed on the verge by 6.00am on the morning of your pick up.

2. How Do I Use the Bulk Kerbside Collection?

Garden material for collection may only be placed on the verge following the receipt of a pamphlet in your mailbox during the operation of the collection. Material will only be collected in the week nominated for your area and should be placed on your verge before 7.00am on the Monday of your collection week. Further details may be found on your Bulk Kerbside Collection pamphlet.

3. How Do I Use The Walliston Transfer Station?

The Walliston Transfer Station is located on Lawnbrook Road in Walliston. This facility operates from 9am to 5pm on each week end and public holiday. The Transfer Station can only accept household and general garden rubbish

– no bricks, concrete or rubble, no hazardous substances. Residents of the Shire may obtain a domestic tip voucher from local libraries or the Shire Administration Centre to obtain a discount on the disposal fee.

4. How Do I Use The Redhill Landfill Site?

The material may be taken for disposal to the Redhill Landfill Site on Toodyay Road, Redhill. This facility operates every day (excluding Good Friday, Christmas and New Years Day) and is open from Monday to Friday 7am – 4pm, Saturdays 8am – 4pm and Sundays/Public Holidays 10am – 4pm. Residents of the Shire may obtain a domestic tip voucher from local libraries or the Shire Administration Centre to obtain a discount on the disposal fee.

Wood Fired Heaters

Another major source of smoke emissions which can create smoke nuisances are wood fired heaters. Incorrectly operated or poorly maintained heaters can create large quantities of smoke which can affect the amenity of surrounding properties.

Tips for Correct Heater Operation:

- Always run your heater on high for 20 to 25 minutes when starting up or refuelling. This will build up the heat quickly and dry the wood out resulting in a more efficient burn. By doing this the amount of smoke produced will be halved without a significant increase in the amount of wood required.
- Do not overfill your heater. This results in poor air circulation creating smoke.
- Add paper if coals are nearly out when refuelling. This creates an ignition source.
- Use ample, dry kindling when lighting your heater. This produces a quick hot fire.
- Put some crumpled newspaper on top of the wood load when lighting. This warms the flue resulting in less smoke.
- Allow 2cm between logs. This ensures adequate air flow resulting in a more efficient fire resulting in less smoke.
- Do not obstruct air flow with a log across the front. Restricting air flow produces smoke. Most wood heaters are designed so that the air flows behind the glass door and then into the fire. For this reason logs should be placed so that they run from the front to the rear or alternatively laying across logs running front to rear.
- Use only dry firewood. This will ensure the fire lights quickly and burns efficiently minimising the amount of smoke produced.
- Regularly check to see how much smoke is produced after lighting your heater. This will reveal if your heater is burning efficiently.
- Routinely check and clean the flue. Removing any excess build up of soot will ensure the fire receives sufficient draught for an efficiently burning fire. Fires that burn efficiently burn cleanly resulting in minimal future soot build up.

By following these simple steps residents of the Shire of Kalamunda can assist in ensuring that smoke from wood heaters is reduced. This will lead to an improvement in Perth's air quality and minimise any adverse health impacts or nuisance to surrounding properties.

The Shire of Kalamunda's Health Service is responsible for maintaining public health standards within the community. Its team of Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) are committed to ensuring these standards are maintained and undertake a variety of statutory and non statutory activities in order to ensure the health of both residents and visitors is preserved. Where complaints regarding smoke nuisances are reported, the situation will be promptly investigated.

More Information:

For more information on these or any other issues above please do not hesitate to call Council's Health Service on 9257 9999.