

# Fire Lighting, at Home

**Fire provokes great memories, wistfully watching the flames dance around. A guide to safe methods to light a fire, whether it is on tarmac or in the garden. Combine with our food cooking sheets.**

*Remember there should be a purpose to lighting fires to cook or keep warm. Please be careful of where you light fires, keep it in control. Never leave a fire unattended and supervise children to prevent burns. Make sure you have a bucket of water close by to put out any unwanted fires and to extinguish at the end.*

**Location:** If you're restricted on space then disposable BBQ trays, traditional metal BBQ's or even a 'fray bentos' tin (wide and shallow) work well to contain the fire. If you have grass in your garden dig up 30cmx30cm square of turf for a small fire. The turf can be replaced later unburnt. Sand, stones or soaking with water around the pit edge can prevent the fire spreading on dry grass.

**Fuel:** To start the fire, easy to light items would include dry leaves, bark and household items like lint from washing machines, newspaper and cotton wool.

Collect a range of twigs and sticks. This may have to be done on a separate scavenging walk in the local area. Make sure there is a range of thicknesses from little finger, thumb to wrist thickness. Collect items off the floor that are dead and importantly dry.

**Lighting:** It is possible to use natural items or paper to light. A dollop of vaseline on cotton wool can provide an excellent firelighter.

Position the easy lighting materials in the middle, carefully placing wood of increasing thickness around and above it. It is important that it is all spaced so air can circulate. Use matches or a lighter to light the paper or cotton wool in the middle first. Gently blow on the fire if it needs help to burn or spread.

**Fire Triangle:** Fuel (wood), Oxygen (air), Heat (provided from matches). Remember the three elements need to be combined to be successful in lighting a fire.

See our video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPp7b71Oq-l>

## *Environmental Awareness*

*Understand the impact of human activities on the environment.*

**Time:**  
40 min plus

**Space:**  
Any Outdoor Space, that belongs to you

**Equipment:**  
Twigs & Sticks, Matches.  
Maybe vaseline / fire lighter, tin or BBQ tray

