

Guidance on domestic bonfires

There are alternatives to burning

Reducing the amount of rubbish you create reduces the amount for disposal. But is it rubbish anyway?

Much of your waste can be recycled - through kerbside collections, see our website http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/524/household_waste-rubbish_collections to see what we will collect.

We also operate two household waste recycling centres http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/531/household_waste-disposal_sites/114/household_waste_recycling_centres where recycling and waste can be taken.

You can also consider:

- Home composting and guidance is provided www.southend.gov.uk/info/10071/composting

Where there are large amounts of waste from the garden or house clearance it might be worth hiring a skip from a private contractor. The prices can vary so do ask for a quote first. If you need to place the skip on the road or pavement rather than in your garden, then the contractor needs to obtain a licence from us and you should contact the Parking, Highways and Transport section of the Council on 01702 215003. . It is your responsibility to ensure the skip is properly positioned and lit at night so as to prevent accidents.

We do not recommend any garden bonfires however if you do have a bonfire:

Remember to warn your neighbours, and take the following into account:

- To limit smoke, burn only dry material.
- Never burn household rubbish or rubber tyres, or use oil to light the fire.
- Never light a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the early evening.
- Never burn when the wind will carry the smoke over roads or other people's property.
- Avoid burning at weekends and on Bank Holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens.
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder - douse it with water if necessary.