

Building Your Campfire Pit from Scratch

Some campsites have unsuitable pits or may not offer pre-made pits at all. If this is the case:

1. Choose a spot that's downwind protected from wind gusts, and at least 15 feet from your tent and gear.
2. Clear a 10-foot diameter area around the site. Remove any grass, twigs, leaves and firewood. Also make sure there aren't any tree limbs or flammable objects hanging overhead.
3. Dig a pit in the dirt, about a foot deep.
4. Circle the pit with rocks.

Your campfire pit is built and ready for preparation!

Preparing Your Campfire Pit:

Before you start your campfire, you need to prepare your pit.

1. Fill the pit with small pieces of dry wood; never rip or cut branches from living trees.
2. Place your unused firewood upwind and away from the fire.
3. Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.

Maintaining Your Campfire

As you're enjoying your campfire, remember these safety tips:

1. Once you have a strong fire going, add larger pieces of dry wood to keep it burning steadily
2. Keep your fire to a manageable size
3. Make sure children and pets are supervised when near the fire
4. Never leave your campfire unattended
5. Never cut live trees or branches from live trees

Extinguishing Your Campfire

When you're ready to put out your fire and call it a night, follow these guidelines:

1. Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible
2. Pour lots of water on the fire, drown ALL embers, not just the red ones
3. Pour until hissing sound stops
4. Stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel
5. Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers
6. Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch
7. If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. Remember: do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire.

REMEMBER: If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!