

How to Properly Dispose of Hot Ashes

- First of all, make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. This is done either by soaking them in water or leaving them sit for a few days if practical (and then double checking them for hot spots). Besides doing this for the above-mentioned appliances this also holds true for cigarette and charcoal grill ashes.
- Secondly, all ashes should be stored in a fire- resistant (metal) container with a tight fitting cover (buckets made especially for storage of ashes are available at many area retailers). They should NEVER be disposed of in a plastic garbage bag or can, a cardboard box, or paper grocery bag. While this sounds obvious, it happens way too often.
- This metal container should then be placed outside the home, away from anything that can burn. It should NOT be placed next to the firewood pile, up against the garage, on or under a wooden deck, or under a porch.
- After sitting in this metal container for a week the ashes are then safe to dispose of in your trash.

Fireplaces and wood stoves have increased in popularity; fires related to their misuse are increasing as well. Learn to use yours properly.

If the steps are not followed, you may be putting your family and community at risk. Houses have burned, garbage trucks have caught on fire, and people have been seriously hurt. If you are not positive if the ashes are completely cool, just wait longer, it might save a life.