

Make your home fire safe

Open Air Burning



**Mississauga Fire
& Emergency Services**



What is open air burning, why is it important to understand and do I need a City permit for it?

This handy guide will help answer all of your questions and help keep you and your family safe!

What is open air burning?

Open air burning means a fire set outside. Each city has its own rules and regulations on how to help manage these type of fires. Open air burning is legal in Mississauga – before you light anything, make sure you follow the rules outlined in the City of Mississauga’s Open Air Burning By-Law 140-18 and know when you need to apply for a permit.

Do I need a permit for gas-fired appliances?

An outdoor appliance, meeting the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000 and utilizes gas (such as propane and natural gas), does not require a permit following to the Ontario Fire Code, O. Reg 213/07. Residents must follow the manufacturer’s instructions for assembly, installation and use.

When do I need a permit?

It can be tricky to know when to apply for an *Open Air Burning Permit*. Here are a few helpful tips on when a permit is required.

✔ Permit Required

You will need a permit for all open air fires other than cooking fires, an outdoor fireplace, outdoor appliance, outdoor fire pit or smoke house.



✘ No Permit Required

You don't need a permit for an outdoor fireplace, outdoor appliance, outdoor fire pit or smoke house and cooking fires.



How do I get a permit?

Permits for open air fires can be obtained by calling Mississauga Fire Prevention office at 905-896-5908 or by emailing fire.prevention@mississauga.ca. There is an application fee to obtain the permit.



Permit fires:

Once you obtain a permit, keep a copy of it close by. You can have an open air fire between sunrise and sunset (daylight hours) if:

- it does not create a nuisance
- a smog alert is not in effect
- the fire is constantly supervised
- you have a way of putting the fire out (such as a garden hose or fire extinguisher)
- the fire is more than 50 metres (146 feet) from any structure, property line, roadway, overhead wire or other combustible item (like a tree)
- if any combustible ground cover (such as grass) is at least five metres away
- it's not a windy day (less than 24 km/hr)
- it is less than one square metre in area
- it does not exceed one metre in height

Manufactured outdoor appliances and cooking fires

A manufactured outdoor appliance may be operated or a small confined cooking fire may occur, without a permit, between sunrise and 11 p.m. if:

- it does not create a nuisance
- a smog alert is not in effect
- the fire is closely supervised at all times and then fully extinguished
- there is a way to put the fire out (such as a fire extinguisher or garden hose)
- it is located at least five metres from any structure, property line, roadway, overhead wire or other combustible item (such as trees)

Manufactured outdoor appliances must:

- be placed on a non-combustible surface (e.g. stone, concrete) extending beyond the unit to a dimension equal to the height of the unit



Cooking fires must:

- consist of a small, confined fire
- used to cook food on a grill, barbecue or spit
- be proportionate to the type and quantity of food being cooked
- not occur during windy weather (more than 24 km/hr)

Fines and enforcement

The fire department may extinguish your fire if:

- it is not compliant with the City's Open Air Burning by-law
- is considered a nuisance
- is determined upon inspection by the firefighter to be a safety hazard

Make your home fire safe

Permits can be withdrawn by the Fire Chief if you do not comply with its requirements or any rules of the City's Open Air Burning by-law.

If you are found guilty of a by-law offence, you could receive a fine of up to \$5,000. If you are found guilty of an Ontario Fire Code violation for open air burning, you could receive a fine up to \$50,000.

Questions? Contact us

Mississauga Fire &
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Fire Prevention Division
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mississauga.ca
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