

How to Build a Safe Incinerator

If you burn forest litter or woody debris often, build and use a good incinerator.



1. Select a site at least five metres from anything that could catch on fire, like trees, overhanging branches, buildings, or piles of debris. Clear an area two metres around the incinerator down to mineral soil.
2. Use a metal barrel in good condition.
3. A heavy metal mesh must be put on top of the incinerator. Mesh size must be less than five mm. Weight the screen with a rock or brick to stop it from falling off your incinerator. Without a mesh cover, a hot fire can spread burning sparks.
4. Material will burn more quickly and cleanly if the incinerator has good air flow. To create this, punch holes about seven centimetres above the bottom of the barrel. Punch a few more holes slightly higher and insert steel rods or pipes to support the material to be burned.
5. Keep a shovel, rake and water nearby.
6. Monitor any fire burning in the incinerator.

Put That Fire Out!

Every person who starts a fire is responsible to ensure it is out. Remember, coals can smoulder for hours and hot embers and sparks can be blown by the wind, easily setting fire to dry grass or twigs. Where possible, dispose of used charcoal or ashes in a pit. Drown hot coals thoroughly, then cover them with sand or gravel.

Without a mesh cover, a hot incinerator fire can spread burning sparks.