

How to Maintain a Safe and Legal Recreational Fire **(Summary of Open Burning Ordinance No. 448)**

Small recreational fires are permitted in Baldwin Township, so long as done under adult supervision and in strict compliance with the Township's new Open Burning Ordinance. The Open Burning Ordinance includes the following:

- **Permitted Places for Open Fires:** Fire pits, rings, and all other receptacles must be at least 15 feet from nearest house, structure, road, property line, utility, tree or other combustible materials.
 - Exception: Grills, barbeques and fireplaces used strictly for cooking may be no less than 5 feet from house, property lines, etc.
 - Exception: You may use a patio heater or other specially manufactured above-ground patio fire pit, fire table, chiminea, or similar patio device on a deck or patio if the device is designed and recommended for use in those locations by the manufacturer. Patio fire receptacles must be at least 5 feet from house.
- **Permitted Burning Materials:** ONLY dry, clean logs, trigs or other **UNTREATED** wood products, charcoal, or natural gas/clean burning fuel.
 - **Prohibited Burning Materials (including but not limited to the following):** Absolutely NO burning of treated wood, fresh cut limbs, leaves, green yard waste, paper, cardboard, plastic, garbage, construction waste, oil/rubber/petroleum based products, or any other materials that tend to cause excessive smells or smoke.
- **Maximum Size of Fire:** fire pit, ring or other receptacle no more than 3 feet across, with flames no higher than 2 feet above the pit, ring or other receptacle.
- **No Excessive Smoke, Odors Or Emissions:** Smoke and odors shall be considered excessive if they contribute more than a negligible amount of air contaminants per spectacle beyond the property line of the source of the fire.
- **Constant Adult Supervision:** Adult supervision required qt all times until fire completely extinguished, and adult property owner is presumed to be responsible for assuring that all burning on their property comply with the Ordinance. You should keep a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby.
- **Police Authorized to Order Fire Extinguished:** The Baldwin Township Police are authorized to order immediate extinguishment of any unauthorized or excessive fires or when wind or other weather conditions warrant same.
- **Fines for Violators:** up to \$1,000.00 fine for unlawful/excessive fires.

[\(Click here to read the Full Text of the Open Burning Ordinance\)](#)