

The City of Waterloo's [open air fire by-law](#) (no. 2011-124) prohibits setting or maintaining an open air fire using solid fuel at any time.

This includes burning wood, paper, coal and yard waste outdoors. Natural gas and propane cooking devices are allowed.

An open air fire is a fire that is outside of a building.

## Enforcement

By-law and police officers may enter and inspect any property - without a warrant - to determine whether or not it conforms with the open air fire by-law. If it does not, charges or an order to extinguish the fire immediately may be issued.

If the property owner or tenant does not comply with the order, we may contact Waterloo Fire Rescue to extinguish the fire at the owner's expense. Parts 9 to 26 of the by-law have more information on enforcement.

If you believe someone is violating the open air fire by-law and would like to file a complaint, please contact us [online](#) or by calling 519-747-8785. For after-hour calls or on weekends, call the [Waterloo Regional Police Service](#) at 519-653-7700 and ask for dispatch. They will send one of our by-law enforcement officers to investigate.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Q. Are outdoor cooking devices allowed in Waterloo?**

A. Manufactured solid fuel cooking devices such as hibachis, smokers, BBQs and similar devices are permitted, provided that the devices are used for cooking purposes in a safe, nuisance free manner. Use of these devices for recreational purposes is prohibited.

### **Q. Whom should I contact if my neighbour is violating this by-law?**

A. If you are concerned that someone is violating the by-law, contact our enforcement team online or at 519-747-8785. Officers will assess the situation and enforce the by-law based on their observations.

### **Q. Are fire pits and chimineas allowed?**

A. No; the use of solid fuel burning appliances or containers including fire pits, barbecue pits, or chimineas are not permitted.