

Open fires and BBQs can damage our countryside and harm wildlife. They can leave long-lasting scars on the ground and cause serious wildfires.

Enjoy your BBQ or camp fire responsibly by observing the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:

**Never light fires or barbecues during a prolonged dry spell or high fire risk warning.**

Never light a fire in forests, woods, on moors or heaths as trees or peaty ground easily catch fire, as can dry vegetation such as long grass, heather and gorse.

Never light a fire on farmland where crops or livestock can be harmed.

Do not light a fire near buildings or on cultural heritage sites. You may be liable if your fire gets out of control and causes damage.

Never cut down or damage trees for wood to burn, even if dead, as these are a valuable wildlife habitat.

Wherever possible, use a stove for cooking outdoors. Any camp fire should be small, under control and supervised at all times.

**LEAVE NO TRACE** If you do light a fire please extinguish it completely and remove all traces of your fire before leaving.



# Barbecues & fires in the countryside

and how to use them! 



**Know the Code before you go:**

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/camping/lighting-fires>

[ranger.service@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ranger.service@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)





**Leave no trace,  
take away everything  
you take in,  
including litter,  
food waste and  
barbecue.**

### **Raise your barbecue above any vegetation or flammable surface**

Bucket style BBQs and reusable BBQs on legs tend to cause less damage than disposable BBQs. If you do use a disposable BBQ, put it on bricks or stones to make a stand. Do not take stones from buildings or dry stone dykes for this!

Do not place your BBQ directly on vegetation or picnic table as this can cause damage. Try to find a stony or sandy area with no vegetation.

If you place your BBQ on sand, douse the area with water after use and spread the sand (take an empty bottle and fill it with water from the sea). This will help prevent injury from hot sand.



### **Extinguish your barbecue fully**

Remember you will need to allow time for your BBQ to cool before removing it from the site. Take a bottle of water with you to extinguish the BBQ. If using a disposable BBQ, keep the box it came in to carry it away after use.

### **Take away everything you take in**

Litter not only looks unsightly, animals may get trapped in it or ingest it. Some sites have bins, but if they are full please take your rubbish home for recycling.

Food scraps are an unnatural diet for wildlife. They can encourage scavenging animals which may then prey on rarer nesting birds.

### **Use facilities where provided**

Many picnic sites have permanent BBQ stands or pits. These are ideal for burning charcoal or supporting BBQ trays.

