

**How to build a campfire**  
 Follow these easy steps to build your own campfire.



**Always** ask the landowner's permission before starting a campfire. Some landowners, such as the Woodland Trust, don't permit campfires in their woods.

# Build a campfire

### 1. Choose the right space

This is important. Your campfire space should be in a clearing at least three metres from any trees or shrubs that could catch alight.

### 2. Prepare your area

Clear a space about two metres wide for the fire, removing any grass, leaves and twigs. Then build a circle of stones around one metre across to contain your fire. Remember to keep water on hand in case you need to put the fire out.



### 5. Lighting your fire

Use a match to light the tinder. Once the tinder has started to burn, slowly add some small pieces of kindling, keeping the sticks close together but allowing space for air.

Gradually increase the size of the kindling you add to the fire. When you have a good fire going, slowly add the fuel one piece at a time in the same way as the kindling, creating a tepee shape.



Add one piece at a time!

### 3. Gathering the wood



**Tinder**  
small dry twigs, leaves or grass.



**Kindling**  
thin dry sticks smaller than 2cm thick.



**Fuel**  
larger pieces of dry wood.

### 4. Constructing your fire

Create a ball of tinder in your hands and place it in the middle of the stone fire circle. Then add the kindling, leaning it into a point over the tinder, like a tepee.



**Remember** to fully extinguish the fire when you're done. Use plenty of water to make sure that no part of it is still burning.

**Make sure you have a grown-up on hand to help you build your campfire.**

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use – and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!

[woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives) | 0330 333 5301 | [naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

**f** Search for 'nature detectives' | **t** #NatureDetectives

© Made in 2016 by the Woodland Trust (registered charity nos 294344 and SC038885)