



## Fireculture

Important instructions for the use and installation of  
indoor and outdoor fireplaces

Only with the control over fire did modern man develop. And also until today the fascination with fire has not diminished. More and more people would like to have an open fireplace in their home, but also for the garden, fireplaces next to the barbecue are becoming more and more popular and in demand.

The possibilities are manifold. Fire tables, wall-mounted or free-standing fireplaces, which burn using bioethanol, are ideal for indoor use, as well as for covered balconies and terraces. Electrically operated burners also offer the possibility of flame regulation by remote control.

For the garden area fire columns, fire bowls and fire baskets which are fired with wood are suitable. There are also countless designs, colours and possibilities.

Fire can inspire and has many positive characteristics, but also negative ones and these must be taken into account. In the following you will find important and essential instructions for dealing with fire in general as well as rules that should be followed.

## General rules for burning wood in the garden

- Foliage, fresh fir and tree branches and wet wood should never be burned. Damp fuel leads to considerable smoke and fume development - the annoyance of residents would be pre-programmed. In strong winds, fires should not be lit for this very reason.
- Plywoods and contaminated wood (such as pieces of wood that have been stuck together with tar) must generally not be burned.
- Only natural and dry wood is allowed to be burned. Therefore, only use seasoned logs, wood briquettes, short branches and dry brushwood or cones.
- Never use fire accelerators or petrol for fires in the garden.
- Do not pile up the pile of wood to be burned until the day on which the fire is lit. Hedgehogs and small creatures seeking shelter will thank you for it.

## What does an optimal fireplace look like?

- The best place for a fireplace is at some distance from the house and neighbourhood (at least 5m). We recommend a minimum distance of 50m to buildings with soft roofing (thatched roof) or wooden houses. 100m distance to easily flammable materials (paper, hay, forest land, etc.).
- Ideally, you should surround fireplaces with a protective wall of sand and stones.
- The fire must never be left unattended, even for a short time. Until the embers are completely extinguished, the fireplace must therefore be supervised
- Extinguishing agent should always be available near the fire. Alternatively, if no fire extinguisher is available, a bucket of water can be provided. A water hose that is connected and within easy reach is also a good idea.

## Are fire baskets and fire bowls allowed in the garden without permission?

In contrast to classic campfires, fire baskets and fire bowls usually do not require a permit. Because here it depends on the size. From a bowl diameter of 1 metre, a permit is required. However, compliance with the regulations of the Federal Immission Control Act (BImSchG) and the respective state immission control laws is always mandatory. In general, fire baskets are to be operated in such a way that the general public and the neighbourhood are neither endangered nor significantly disturbed.

Safety regulations must also be observed when using fire baskets and fire bowls. Safety distances to buildings and flammable materials must be maintained in the same way, albeit to a lesser extent than for campfires in the garden. A minimum distance of 3-5 m to flammable surrounding materials (garden furniture, shrubs) is advisable. Wood in fire bowls may be stacked a maximum of 1 metre high and may only be placed a maximum of 1 metre wide. Larger fires in fire bowls are very dangerous and should be avoided.

Fire bowls must be placed on a fireproof base such as stone, sand, tiles or similar. If this is not naturally given, the fire bowl should be placed on a steel plate, for example. To avoid heat accumulation, there should always be a sufficient free space between the fire bowl and the floor. The firebowl should be placed flat, wobble-free and stable and out of reach of children and pets. Even fluttering clothes, be it summer dresses or winter coats, should not be able to get near the fire. The fire bowl should not wobble or even fall over even if it is accidentally hit.

Fire accelerant is also prohibited in small fires in the fire bowl, as the risk of injury from jet flames is much too great. Suitable extinguishing material (remember: fire extinguisher, water hose and water bucket) should ideally be provided near the fire basket or fire bowl.

## What is to be observed with fireplaces that burn with bioethanol?

Fireplaces, fire cupboards and fireplaces that burn with bioethanol can also be used indoors. However, there are also rules that must be observed. Furthermore, the size of the room must also be taken into account. In general, the larger the burner, the larger the room volume. Beyond that:

- Only use pure, pollutant-free bioethanol
- Never fill up the fireplace when it is still burning or warm
- Always provide sufficient fresh air, as carbon dioxide is produced during combustion
- If any liquid is spilled, wipe up immediately and dispose of the cloth outdoors as it is highly flammable
- Use rod lighters to ignite

Recommendation:

Burner size (mm)	Capacity Bioethanol (Liter)	Max. power in kW/h	Minimal room size in m <sup>3</sup>
400	1,8l	3,0	60
500	2,3l	3,8	76
600	2,8l	4,5	90
700	4,0l	6,8	136
800	4,8l	7,5	150
1000	5,9l	8,2	164

More information:

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bimschg/BJNR007210974.html>

<https://www.service-bw.de/lebenslage/-/sbw/Immissionsschutz-5001144-lebenslage-0>