



Fire Away: Prevention Tips for Outside the Cottage:

1. Consider getting a fire pump. Not only can they be indispensable in an emergency, but they are ideal for watering down your property in times of drought – not to mention that they're great for blasting a deck clean in minutes.
2. Be aware of the fire rating in your municipality. And always respect fire bans.
3. Keep BBQs clean and don't leave them unattended while lit. Be extra careful when using them for the first time at opening.
4. Keep BBQ lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
5. Having an outdoor fire? Be aware of the wind. If it's too gusty, don't have a fire. When starting a fire, make it on rock or bare soil, well away from roots or flammable debris. Never leave a fire unattended. When leaving, douse the fire with water and stir the ashes to ensure it's completely out.
6. If you have a burn barrel, don't leave it unattended and only use when it's not windy. Set it up at least 5 metres from grasses and foliage and leave at least a 2-metre area of rock or soil around the barrel. Fully extinguish it when you leave.
7. Keep firefighting tools (a fire pump, a bucket of water or sand, a garden hose and shovels) on hand when doing any outdoor burning.
8. Store fuel, firewood and other combustible materials well away from the cottage: at least 10 metres away is recommended.
9. Create a fire break around your cottage by removing combustible material such as debris and dead vegetation. Replace flammable plants with low-growing and woody or deciduous plants as they are more fire resistant.
10. FireSmart Canada recommends that a fire break extend at least 10 metres around your cottage, but in some cases it may make sense to manage fuel sources up to 100 metres away. For more details, review the FireSmart guides available at [Home-Owners-FireSmart-Manual-MNR-publication](#)
11. Keep roof and rain gutters free of dried leaves and pine needles. Install a screened cap on your chimney.
12. If you allow smoking at the cottage, establish a safe smoking area free of flammable debris and provide a sand or water-filled can for butt disposal. Stress safe disposal of butts to all guests. In 2002 9,414 fires in Canada were caused by smoking. (Counsel of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners: Fire Losses in Canada 2002 Annual Report.
13. Use extreme care in setting off fireworks – and never set them off during a fire ban or in an area with lots of brush or flammable debris. Have extinguishers at the ready. Make sure everything is fully extinguished.
14. Keep highly flammable fibreglass boats and canoes away from the cottage.

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For more information visit <https://georgianbay.ca/boating/fire/>