



# Can I? Can't I?

Campfires  
and Barbecues

CONSERVATION  
REGULATOR VICTORIA



# **Campfires can easily escape and start a bushfire**

- Understand the campfire and barbecue rules before you visit forests and parks in Victoria.
- Think about using fuels other than wood for cooking while camping.
- Your campfire is your responsibility. You are legally responsible for ensuring that it is safe, does not escape, and is completely put out before you leave.

## Before you go

- Pack a **bucket**.
- Make sure you have access to **water**.
- Check the **weather and Fire Danger Ratings**.
- Find out if there is a **Total Fire Ban** where you plan to visit.

## Arriving at the campsite

### Building your campfire

- Use a **designated fireplace** where available.
- Portable firepits may also be used, except in National Parks where campfires are only permitted in designated fireplaces.
- Make sure there is nothing that could catch fire within **3 metres** of a campfire or **designated fireplace** (including above and around it).
- Keep it small. Your fire (including the logs/branches within it) must be **less than 1 square metre** in size.

### Using portable barbecues/stoves<sup>^</sup>

- You can use barbecue/stove appliances that are **designed and manufactured** for that purpose.
- The barbecue/stove must be **stable** (not at risk of tipping over).
- Make sure there is nothing that could catch fire within **1.5 metres** of your barbecue (including above and around it).<sup>†</sup>

<sup>^</sup>Allowed in some National Park areas – contact Parks Victoria to confirm.

<sup>†</sup>This also applies to any generators you have running at your campsite.

## While you are camping

- A responsible adult **must watch** the campfire or barbecue at all times.
- **If it's hot or windy, do not light** a campfire or barbecue.
- If you leave the campsite for any reason, **put out your campfire - even if you plan to come back**.

# Leaving the campsite

- Fill up your **bucket with water** and use it to put out your campfire.
- When the **ashes are cool to touch** it is safe to leave.
- **Dirt is not enough** – fires can keep burning underground for days in the right conditions.



\*This image relates to general use, not on a day of Total Fire Ban



**Do not put** glass, aluminium, plastic, rubbish or food scraps into your campfire. Please take these home with you. Leaving these items at your campsite is littering and subject to on-the-spot fines.

# Total Fire Ban days

**Total Fire Ban days = no campfires, including the use of wood, briquettes, heat beads.**



- Find out if a Total Fire Ban is in place.
- Call the Vic Emergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**
- Download the **Vic Emergency App** or visit **emergency.vic.gov.au**

## Barbecues on Total Fire Ban days

You can use a permanent gas or electric barbecue on a total fire ban day if it is:

- Built of stone, metal concrete, or another **non-flammable material**.
- Designed and manufactured **only for meal preparation** (including portable barbecues).
- Always in a **stable position** when in use.

You must:

- Only use it to cook a meal.
- Make sure there is nothing that can catch fire within **1.5 metres** of the barbecue.
- **Supervise** the barbecue at all times and make sure you can put it out if necessary.
- Have a hose connected to a water supply or at least **10L of water**.
- Ensure the barbecue is **completely out** before you leave.

- **Unattended** (unwatched) campfires are one of the biggest potential causes of bushfires.
- If we find an unattended campfire or barbecue, we will put it out.
- If we find a campfire or barbecue that is still alight or not completely extinguished, you could be **fined or taken to court**.
- Every person has a **legislative duty** to prevent the spread of a fire.

## Information sources

- Check the long range weather forecast before you leave via [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)
- Find out about Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings via:
  - VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226
  - [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)
  - Vic Emergency App

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**To report suspicious or illegal activity call DEECA on 136 186**

**To contact Parks Victoria call 131 963**

**[vic.gov.au/unattended-campfires](http://vic.gov.au/unattended-campfires)**