

Campfires and barbecues

Ditch the disposable

Single-use disposable barbecues are damaging to the environment, a high fire risk and can cause injury to people and wildlife when not disposed of properly.

Please **do not use disposable barbecues** in the Cairngorms National Park.

If you are going to barbecue, please plan ahead and bring your own reusable barbecue from home.

Barbecue best practice

At times of 'high fire risk' you should not use a barbecue. Please always follow advice from rangers / site staff and local signage (some sites, like Glenmore, don't permit barbecues).

Place on a solid, fire-resistant surface such as stones or sand. Never leave unattended. Fully extinguish after cooking (please do not add wood to make a fire). Dispose of your **cold** ash in a bin or take it home.

> It only takes one spark or piece of smouldering ash to start a wildfire. You can help prevent wildfires by following the guidance in this leaflet.

High fire risk

A **'high fire risk'** period is declared by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service when there is a high likelihood of wildfires starting. Usually this is after a prolonged dry spell when the ground and vegetation is tinder dry.

Signs will be displayed when the fire risk is high. During this time please take extra care with cooking stoves, do not light any fires and don't use barbecues.

You can help keep the Cairngorms National Park a special place by enjoying the outdoors responsibly, respecting other people and caring for the environment.



Please follow the guidance in this leaflet, any on-site signage and advice from rangers and land managers. Guidance may vary at different sites.

cairngorms.co.uk

No campfires please!

To help protect the Cairngorms National Park, its beautiful landscapes and special wildlife we ask that you **do not light a campfire**.

Areas across the National Park have been damaged as a result of campfire and barbecue use. Campfires are a particular risk, even if lit in a fire pit or fire bowl. If you need to cook please use a stove or barbecue instead.

Wildfire danger

The woodlands and peatlands of the Cairngorms can easily catch fire. One spark is all it takes to accidentally start a wildfire which can cause major damage.

Fire spreads quickly, burning trees and vegetation and burning through peat in the ground. Habitats are destroyed, wildlife killed, property damaged and people's livelihoods impacted.

> Wildfires can occur on grassland, moorland and in woodlands. By not lighting a campfire you are helping to protect these special landscapes and their wildlife.

The effects of a wildfire on a woodland in the Cairngorms © Cairngorms National Park Authority

Dead wood is alive

Collecting wood or cutting down trees for firewood is damaging to the environment. Dead wood is an important part of a healthy ecosystem – it provides a habitat, food and shelter for wildlife and as it rots it releases nutrients back into the soil.

By leaving the dead wood and branches where they belong on the forest floor you are helping conserve the local habitat.

Fire scars on the ground take more than five years to recover. You can help prevent this damage by not having a campfire.

> Campfire scorching in the Cairngorms © Cairngorms National Park Authority

Do the right thing

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says that you should never light a campfire in woods, on peaty ground, farmland, cultural heritage sites or near buildings. This leaves almost nowhere in the National Park where you could light a campfire responsibly.

Please help to set a good example to others by not lighting a campfire anywhere.