

Lighting a fire instructions

1. Prepare the area for a fire.
2. If the fireplace is still dirty from the last fire take the ashes out and empty the tray below the grate. Don't put hot ashes in the bin.
3. Gather together the ingredients for the fire.
4. You will need logs for the fire,
5. Kindling (small twigs from the garden)
6. Firelighters
7. Newspaper that will ignite and burn quickly (not waxy paper)
8. Matches to start it all.
9. Make sure the flue is open or you will fill the house with smoke.
10. Prepare the base of the fire by placing two logs on each side of the fire. These will point from front to back on either side of where you are building the fire. This forms a funnelling of fresh air to the fire.
11. Next, lightly scrunch up newspaper in the space between these logs.
12. Lay the firelighters and kindling on top of the paper and arrange it to build into a teepee shape.
13. Good kindling is thin twigs or shavings of dry lumber. These should catch quickly and burn with a lot of heat. As the fire consumes the kindling it will move to larger pieces of wood and build in size.
14. Arrange larger kindling in a criss-cross fashion over the teepee. Start wide and then on every other stacking move closer, until the kindling is built up into a pyre shape.
15. Finally, place the larger logs on the top and the sides so that as the fire catches you can move them into the main part of the fire.
16. Light the match. Hold the match to the base of the kindling to allow it to catch. Blow slightly at the base to heat the burning chips more and make it easier to catch the larger pieces on fire.
17. As the flames build, allow the fire to establish itself. The worst thing you can do is add too much too fast. This will smother a fire. Once the flames are drawing air in at the base and the flames are going well, add the larger logs
18. Sit back and enjoy.