



NCRA



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Trade & Commercial Waste Bonfires

Commercial waste includes waste from a gardening, landscaping, builder's waste etc. The legal penalties for causing a nuisance are high.

Duty Of Care

Sections 33 and 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a Duty of Care on waste producers. This requires waste producers to ensure that all waste produced, stored or transferred does not adversely impact upon the environment or human health. The duty of care makes it illegal to burn commercial waste on site, or to dispose of waste without a waste transfer note or contract.

Complaints

Complaints about a persistent nuisance caused by regular bonfires can be referred to the Public Health and Protection on 01707 357242 or email e.health@welhat.gov.uk

Further Information

Information or advice please call Public Health and Protection on 01707 357242 or email contact-whc@welhat.gov.uk

Bonfires

Bonfires cause pollution and can cause real annoyance and nuisance to neighbours. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council strongly discourage them. Before you light a bonfire, ask yourself is it really necessary? You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it using the fortnightly brown bin collection. Additional garden waste can be placed in WHBC bags which are available from the Parish Council Office, currently priced at £5.60 for 5. Garden waste may also be taken to your nearest recycling depot.

- Every year the Council's Environmental Health team receives a large number of complaints about garden bonfires causing a nuisance to residents in the vicinity.
- Annoyance to neighbours is caused by smoke, soot and smell.
- The smoke contains pollutants such as carbon monoxide, dioxins and very small particles that add to the background levels of local air pollution.
- Poor air quality can lead to health problems for asthmatics and the many elderly people with additional respiratory problems.
- Frequently domestic bonfires are considered a nuisance and can result in the Council issuing an abatement notice and a £5,000 fine.

Nuisance

If the smoke, fly ash or gritty particles associated with a commercial bonfire cause a nuisance to other people then this is a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Council can serve a notice to abate the nuisance (stop it) or prevent it happening again. If the person responsible does not comply with this notice then they can be fined up to £20,000. If the commercial operator such as a builder can't be traced to serve a notice then it will be served on the person employing them instead, requiring them to control their contractor.