

# Residential Fire Pits in Meadow Lake

*For the full regulations regarding fire pits, please refer to the Outdoor Recreational Fire Bylaw No. 15/2015*

## Application

This information applies to the residential use of outdoor fire pits intended for the burning of wood.

Appliances that use propane, natural gas, camp fuel, wood pellets or charcoal are not regulated by this Bylaw. Such appliances must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Propane and gas appliances must bear a certification mark verifying compliance with the applicable CSA standard.

## Permits and Inspections

- Obtain a permit from City Hall prior to installation. *All requirements are listed on the permit*
- *Be sure that all requirements listed on the permit are complete before calling for inspection*
- Each fire pit requires a permit and must be inspected by a City official.
- The cost for the permit is \$20.00, to be paid at City Hall.
- Permits must be renewed after 5 years, and the fire pit must be re-inspected
- Re-inspection is also required if the fire pit is altered or moved

## Materials and Dimensions

- Fire containers must be
  - Sturdily constructed of approved materials as specified in the Bylaw, such as solid brick, concrete, heavy-gauge metal or clay,
  - Fitted with a spark arrester covering the entire top opening and any side openings,
  - Installed on a non-combustible base extending outward at least 16 inches
  - Not portable (the container must be either too heavy to move, or be permanently attached to the ground)
  - Base Preparation constructed of non-combustible material extending no less than 400 mm (16 inches) in all directions from the outside surface of the appliance,
  - Base shall be constructed so as to prevent the incursion of vegetation.

- Metal appliances that are deemed unsuitable for burning wood *may* be suitable acceptable for use with charcoal briquettes
- All openings must be covered by a heavy gauge metal screen, with openings of 13mm (1/2 inch) or smaller. This includes openings on the sides or bottom as well as the top

## Location

- The fire pit must be
  - at least 3 meters (10 feet) from any property line, building or other combustibles,
  - at least 6 meters (20 feet) from any residential dwelling and
  - not directly under a power line
  - not close to trees, especially conifers

## General Regulations

- Maintain your fire pit in good condition. Discard or repair if deteriorated
- Burn approved materials only (seasoned wood, charcoal briquettes).
- Burning of treated wood, painted wood, garbage, yard waste, green tree branches, synthetic materials or any material that produces large amounts of smoke, toxic smoke or foul-smelling smoke is expressly forbidden.
- *Please be considerate: If smoke from your fire causes a nuisance to other residents, put your fire out.*
- Hours of use are not restricted, but any use after 11PM until 9AM must follow the requirements of the Noise Bylaw
- If complaints are received from neighboring residents, the City may require the fire pit to be removed, and penalties may be assessed.
- Any use of a fire pit which is deemed, in the opinion of a fire department officer, to be hazardous will result in immediate action to remove the hazard. All related costs will be the responsibility of the property owner.

*Below are some examples of permitted and non-permitted fire pits:*



Needs a non-combustible base



Spark arrestor too small



Requires spark arrestors and to be permanently attached



Requires a spark arrestor and permanent attachment to a non-combustible base



Loose fieldstones not permitted



Metal too thin - Charcoal briquettes only