

# Allotment Incinerator

- Always approach the incinerator with caution as it may be HOT

To start a fire in an incinerator you would be well to have the following

- NEWSPAPER – to help establish the fire
- MATCHES – to help start the fire
- DRY TWIGS – to help the fire to 'take'
- HEAT RESISTANT GLOVES – let's be careful out here...gloves are in the main shed and must be returned after use. (they belong to all of us)

Before and After

- Always make a visual inspection of the adjacent area to ensure there are no other combustible items (no overhanging trees or branches)
- Always make sure water is freely available (in 45 gallon drums) and buckets / watering cans are available to douse or extinguish the fire.
- Make sure you have the time to manage the incinerator
  - Stay with the incinerator for the first period of burn to ensure the fire is 'controlled'
  - Douse the fire before you leave to ensure there are no violent flames. (the fire will continue to 'burn' through its own heat).

Starting the fire

- Place lightly scrunched-up paper in the bottom of the incinerator
- Layer some small dry twigs over the top of the paper
- Roll up a length of newspaper and light it and push it through one of the air holes at the base of the incinerator.
- Let the fire take hold and the initial plume of smoke to die down.
- TAKE YOUR TIME – add the garden waste gradually and with care so that the fire is not smothered.
- If the incinerator has a vented lid, replace it.
- Keep topping up the incinerator – do not overfill it since it may smother the flames.
- If burning wood – CUT/BREAK THE WOOD INTO manageable lengths that will fit INSIDE the incinerator. DO NOT REST long pieces of wood such that they 'overhang' the sides of the incinerator.

Dealing with the ash

- It is recommended to keep the ash (in a sealed container to keep it dry) for use on the allotment all year round.
- WOOD ASH contains potassium which is a vital nutrient for crops.
- Add ash to the compost heap – but don't overdo it since it may harm the bacteria and worm work. Sprinkle from time to time...
  - Maybe add a bit more if you put fruit waste (which is acidic) into your composter.
- If the soil is at a pH value higher than 7.5 DO NOT ADD ash
- If you are growing acid loving blueberries DO NOT ADD ash
- Sprinkling ash on the top of soil deters slugs
- Root vegetables like potash (potassium) but don't overdo it.