

Main Street of the South Shore
www.bridgewater.ca

Burning within the Town of Bridgewater

Town Bylaw prevents outdoor burning

When we live in a close net community such as ours, we have to be respectful of our neighbors rights as we enjoy ours. The Town of Bridgewater has had a No Burning Bylaw since 1991 with later revisions in 1995 and 2002. ***“No burning shall be carried out within the Town save and except burning that is within a stove; furnace; or small fires in a properly constructed barbeque or grill for the purpose of cooking food. Properly constructed barbeque or grill shall consist of a stone, brick or building block construction with a chimney or flue including a spark arrester. These requirements do not govern gas fired or charcoal barbeques used for cooking food.”*** That basically means that you cannot burn brush, leaves, grass, recyclables, garbage, construction debris or pressure treated wood within town limits. However, the Town Bylaw allows you to cook food on an open fire. A properly constructed barbeque must burn only clean, seasoned dry wood or charcoal. Within 30 minutes of start up of a properly constructed fire in a properly constructed barbeque, there should be little or no smoke. The current town Bylaw only deals with fire safety not smoke issues.

Future Bylaw changes

In the near future the Town may introduce several changes to the Burning Bylaw. Some of these changes may reflect what is commonly known in our area or legislated in other parts of Nova Scotia. Such items may include restrictions on where the outdoor solid fuel burning appliance may be installed, the construction of such an appliance, the size of the fire or firebox and a glossary or definition section may be added. Also, the Town may want to highlight what fuels can be burned such as clean dry wood or charcoal and prohibit the burning of other items. In other parts of Nova Scotia limits are placed on when you can use these items as well. Penalties for repeat offenders may be introduced as well.

More Details visit : <http://www.bridgewater.ca/building-and-fire-inspections/burning-by-law.html>



Concrete Barbeque with screen, chimney and non combustible base



Commercially available outdoor wood burning fireplace.



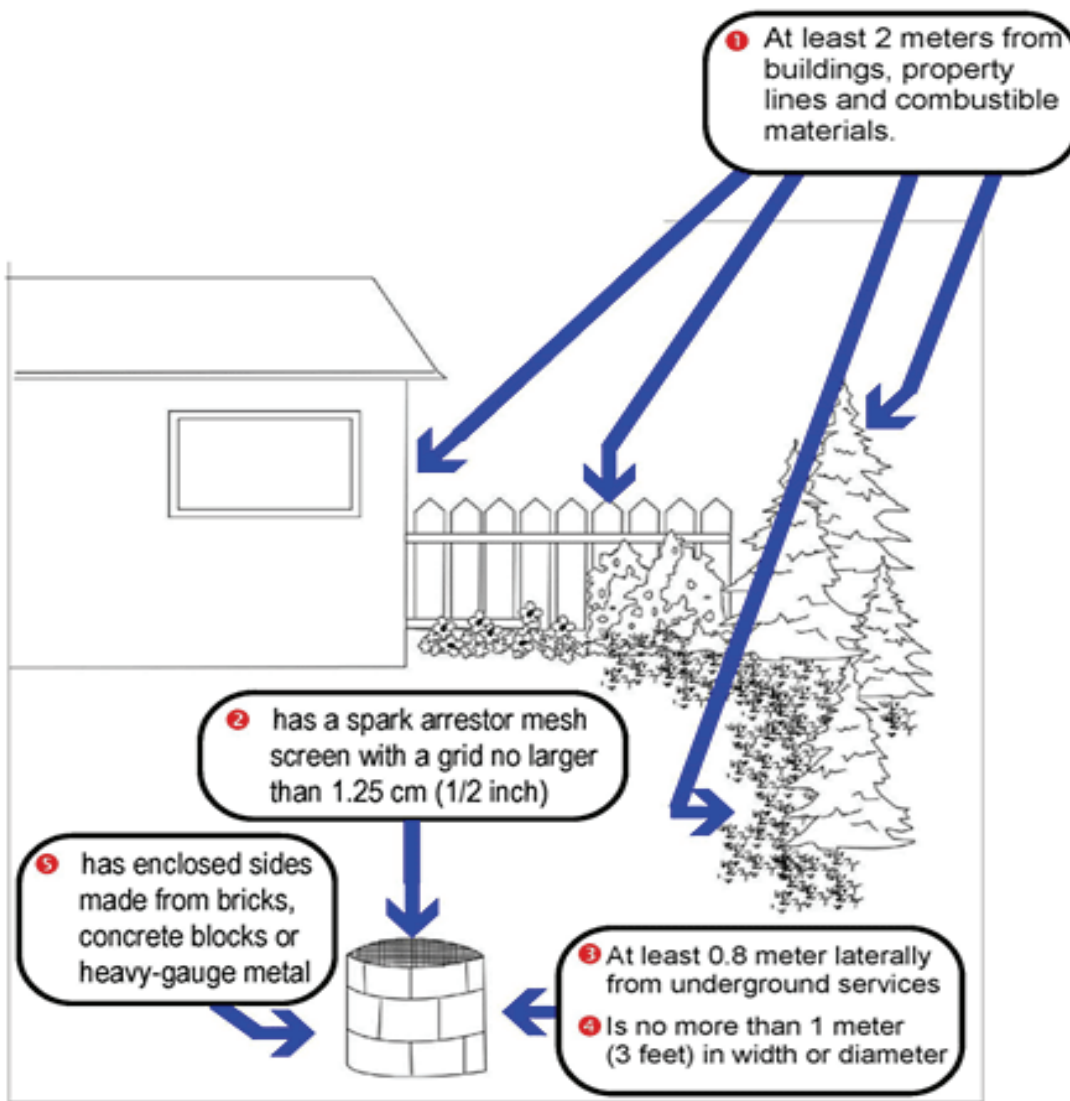
Other Legislation

Did you know that the **Nova Scotia Department of the Environment** has strict guidelines for burning garbage or recyclables? If you burn garbage or recyclables you can be charged under Provincial Law. For further information you can contact them at 543-4685 (day) or 1-800-565-1633 (24 hr emergency line) or via the web at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/>

The burning of garbage and recyclables are very harmful to the environment, our people and our economy.

Proper Construction

As the Town grows, we have to protect our residents from the threat of fire or fire outbreak. Having minimum construction requirements for solid fuel burning appliances and regulations on where and when you can use them makes good sense. The current Town Bylaw has restrictions on what the appliance can be constructed of. The barbeque or grill must be constructed of stone, brick or building block that has a flue and spark arrester. We suggest a screen with a 1/4"-1/2" mesh to prevent sparks from entering the lawn or near by wooded area. The barbeque or grill must also be set on a non combustible pad at least 2 meters from combustibles such as sheds, decks or fences. The barbeque or grill must also be designed to accommodate a small fire only, anything larger than 30" is generally considered too large a fire for cooking purposes. **Please note that all pictures within this document may not be approved for use, please contact the Town's fire inspector for further details.**



If a complaint occurs, the Town of Bridgewater's police force or Fire Department will investigate to determine if the outdoor wood burning appliance meets the requirements as set out in the Towns Bylaw. If in the opinion of the Fire Chief, their designate or the Police, the use of the outdoor solid fuel burning appliance and/or current weather conditions are or may pose a hazard you may be asked to refrain from using your outdoor wood burning appliance. Please pay close attention to the local weather forecast and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Fire Index for bans on outdoor fires. <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestprotection/wildfire/fwi/>



Here are a few helpful hints that will make your summer barbeque or grilling experience enjoyable:

- Use only clean dry seasoned firewood. Burning prohibited materials will produce dense smoke and offensive odours to neighbouring properties.
- Smoke from outdoor appliances can adversely affect some people. Be aware of neighbours that may be negatively impacted to exposure of smoke from outdoor barbeques. Use common sense and a good neighbour policy. Check the local weather conditions for wind and fire bans. If the weather calls for high winds or excessive drying conditions do not use your outdoor barbeque.
- Familiarize yourself with optimal conditions and take precautions to prevent smoke from disturbing your neighbours.
- Do not burn during high or low wind conditions. Low wind conditions contribute to poor air quality and reduce smoke dissipation.
- Ensure that you have a means of extinguishing the fire, either a water hose, fire extinguisher or buckets of water must be close by.
- As a good neighbour, we should not use an outdoor wood burning appliance before 11 am and have the fire fully extinguished by 1:00am.
- By having a 1/4" to 1/2" metal screen will reduce the flames size and help prevent embers from escaping and igniting nearby combustible materials.
- The fire box area must be no larger than 30 inches (76cm) in height or width.
- If the barbeque is commercially purchased follow the manufacturers installation instructions and usage.

For more information please contact the Town of Bridgewater at **541-4370** or andywentzell@bridgewater.ca
<http://www.bridgewater.ca/building-and-fire-inspections/>