

Outdoor pizza ovens

Home-made or manufactured pizza ovens use wood as fuel to cook food.

Follow the guidance below to ensure your pizza oven doesn't pose a risk to people and properties.

Before you light your pizza oven

Other agency requirements - Check council websites for air quality rules, restrictions including air shed zones and smoke nuisance guidelines.

Weather - Check the latest weather and wind speed and direction. Only light your fire when there is little or no wind forecast.

Smoke - Place your pizza oven so that smoke won't impact others.

Safety zone - Put your pizza oven on a stable, level, non-flammable surface such as a metal tray, gravel, concrete or dirt. Keep your pizza oven more than three metres from buildings and anything else that could catch alight and burn, e.g. plants, grasses, or branches.

Extinguish - Keep a garden hose turned on or buckets of water within five metres of your pizza oven. You need to be ready to put out your fire and extinguish any hot embers that escape.

Don't light your pizza oven if you have any doubts that it is safe.

When your fire is lit

Fuel – Use only clean, dry, untreated wood.

Fire control – Load small amounts of wood at a time. Close the oven door to prevent smoke.

Supervise - Ensure someone stays with the pizza oven until it's put out. Have a 'no go zone' to keep children and pets safe.

Weather - If a change to the wind direction or speed makes your pizza oven unsafe — put it out.

Be responsible - You need to be able to take charge if there's an emergency, and should not be impaired.



After your fire

Extinguish - Leave the fire to burn out. Close the pizza oven door so sparks, embers or burnt wood don't escape and start an unplanned fire. When cool, carefully place ashes and embers into a metal container and saturate with water.

Stir them and check they are cold before you properly dispose of them. Extinguished coals and ashes should be placed a safe distance from all structures and combustible materials.

Dial 111 immediately in an emergency. Anything that could cause loss of life, serious injury or loss of property is a fire emergency.

Related content

Learn more about how to stay safe on the Fire and Emergency New Zealand website.

- [Fire Types](#)
- [Urban home fire safety checklist](#)
- [Rural home fire safety checklist](#)
- Fire seasons and permits: visit checkitsalright.nz