



# SMITH VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## Woodstove and Fireplace Ash Disposal

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When disposing of ashes, use the following procedure:

- Store all ashes in a fire-resistant metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Never store ashes in a cardboard box, paper bag, or plastic bag or bucket.
- Make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. Place the ashes in the metal container and then soak the ashes in water and stir.
- Wet down the ashes and any wood pieces in the metal can. Use enough water to saturate the materials in the metal bucket and then stir, so the materials are thoroughly wet.
- Place the lid securely on the can and allow the ashes to sit outside for at least three days.
- Place the metal container on a non-combustible surface, and away from anything flammable or combustible. Do not leave the bucket in the house. Do not place the can next to a firewood pile or building, in the garage or under a wood deck or porch.
- After sitting for at least three days in the covered metal container, cautiously check the exterior of the can to ensure it is cold to the touch.
- The completely cold ashes can then be used as compost in your garden or disposed of properly.
- Never place ashes that may still be warm in the trash or where the wind may blow them into combustible or flammable materials.

It is crucial that you take prudent fire prevention measures when heating your home, including disposing of ashes correctly using a metal ash can. Even after several days, a pile of ashes can hold enough heat to reignite and start a fire. Three days is the minimum recommended cooling period for soaked ashes. Use extra care in the storage and final disposal of ashes.

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