

# Building a Backyard Fire Pit

1. Select a site for the fire pit. (See Fire Pit Safety Guidelines below)
2. Be sure that the ground is level and even. If the ground is not even, you can lay a base to insure the fire pit is level.
3. **To lay a base:** Dig a trench for the pit that is 12" wide and 4" deep. Fill the trench with 2" of #10 Limestone. This would take 4 1/2 cubic foot bags of #10 Limestone. Compact this till flat with a hand tamper.
4. When you lay the bottom course, either leave 2 venting holes the size of one block or leave 4 venting holes 1/2 the size of a block. **You will only use 15 blocks for the bottom course.**
5. Once the first course is in place, add the second and third courses placing the blocks across the joints of the lower course. The second and third courses should be complete circles with no gaps between blocks. (Use 17 blocks for the middle and top courses.)
6. The center of the fire pit can be covered with several inches of Blue Granite, Mason Sand or Lava Rock. **Never use limestone as excess heat can cause limestone to explode.**

Dimensions:

3 course fire pit: 48" outer diameter; 33" inner diameter; 11 7/8" high

4 course fire pit: 48" outer diameter; 33" inner diameter; 15 3/4" high

## Fire Pit Safety Guidelines

**Check First:** Before considering the construction of a fire pit, contact your local fire department for specific regulations unique to your community.

**How Big:** Fire Pits are meant to contain small backyard fires. Fires no more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet high will neither smoke up the neighborhood nor encourage your neighbors to contact the fire department.

**Where to Burn:** Fire Pits should be located at least 10 feet away from combustibles such as your house, wooden decks, shed, trees or fences. Pay attention to overhead features such as wires, trees limbs and canopies. Watch the smoke and be certain that the wind is not carrying it in the yards or the homes of your neighbors.

**What and What Not to Burn:** Do not attempt to burn construction materials, yard waste, plastics, paper, grass, rubbish or leaves. Do not burn flammable liquids in a Fire Pit or moist wood as it is extremely smoky. Seasoned firewood produces the best fire with the least amount of smoke. Newspaper is good for starting a fire, but it is also very smoky, try using a fire starter like Fatwood instead.

**Action Around the Fire Pit:** Do not leave fires unattended or in the care of children. Never sit on the edge of the Fire Pit wall. The walls may become hot and pose a danger to children or adults. Avoid "rough-housing" and running around the Fire Pit.

**Extinguishing:** Fire Pits should always have a means of being extinguished by hand. A bucket of sand, water or a fire extinguisher should always be present. When the evening is over, allow the fire to die out or use water or sand to extinguish the last of the flames and smother the embers. Avoid putting cool water directly on hot wall stones as it may cause them to crack or shatter.



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