

# HOW TO MAKE A GREAT CAMPFIRE

## What Do All Fires Need?

AIR



This one is almost not worth mentioning at this point. Take a breath, that's air and it's all around you. Let's focus on the other two then, okay?

FUEL



This is anything that can burn, typically wood, but can be paper or other combustibles. Just be careful of what you're burning! There are regulations.

HEAT



Whether it's rubbing two sticks together, a hot spark from flint and steel, or the tried and true match, you need to get things HOT to get a fire going!

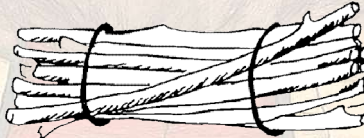
## What Qualifies As Fuel?

Tinder



Twigs, dry leaves, dryer lint, or even paper. This is the most easily burnable material you have on hand!

Kindling



Small sticks, larger than tinder and smaller than firewood. These won't burn easily on their own but will burn well on tinder!

Firewood



Larger than kindling, this is what you expect to have burn for a while and needs time to start off of your kindling

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- You will want to start by gathering all the materials you will need, your tinder, kindling, and firewood, so it is on hand and at the ready.
  - Make sure your materials are dry and dead. Wet, green (live) wood does not burn well and until your fire is well established, it won't even remotely do you any good.
- Keep your materials separated into easily identifiable piles while you work on starting your fire.
- Once you have a fire started, you want to make sure you can keep it going or you'll be starting over from the beginning if it goes out.
- Starting with tinder, create a loosely packed bed of material to start your fire.
- Once you have your tinder arranged, start your fire by applying your heat source.
  - Match – The easiest choice by far, just strike to ignite the match and touch it to your tinder. Easy, right?
  - Flint or Magnesium and Steel – Maybe not as easy as a match but better in some ways. Consider scraping magnesium onto your tinder before striking to help start the initial blaze. Always nice to have magnesium and steel on hand if your matches ever get wet!
  - Magnifying Glass – Also not as easy as a match and maybe not as easy as flint/magnesium and steel depending on your preferences. With a good amount of sun, you can set your tinder on fire with relative ease and a little patience. Also nice to have if your matches ever get wet!
  - Two sticks – When all else fails... This is the hardest option by far but it does work! Be ready for a good arm workout...
- With your tinder now burning, be ready to start playing your kindling on top taking care not to smother your tinder fire and not letting your tinder burn out before the kindling has time to ignite
- With your kindling now burning, you should be ready to keep adding kindling as needed while attempting to start your larger firewood pieces.
- Running low on tinder or kindling? You can split pieces from your larger firewood to make kindling and split your kindling into tinder. All you need is a hatchet or sturdy knife!
  - A hatchet works best to split larger firewood pieces into kindling
  - A sturdy knife can be used to shave pieces off your larger kindling to make tinder
- Always follow local rules and regulations when building a fire!