



J. P. Mascaro & Sons

Has Some Safety Tips For DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING OF ASHES

(FIREPLACES, PELLET STOVES, WOODBURNERS, ETC.)

With the increased use of outdoor fireplaces and alternative heating methods (pellet stoves, corn burners, etc.) Careless/improper disposal of the leftover ashes, even after several days piles of ashes can hold enough heat to reignite and start a fire. Therefore, extra care should be used in the storage and final disposal of them.

- ▶ First of all, make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. This is done either by soaking them in water or leaving them sit for a few days if practical (and then double checking them for hot spots). Besides doing this for the above-mentioned appliances this also holds true for cigarette and charcoal grill ashes.
- ▶ Secondly, all ashes should be stored in a fire-resistant (metal) container with a tight fitting cover (buckets made especially for storage of ashes are available at many area retailers). They should NEVER be disposed of in a plastic garbage bag or can, a cardboard box, or paper grocery bag. While this sounds obvious, it happens way too often.
- ▶ This metal container should then be placed away from anything that can burn. It should NOT be placed next to the firewood pile, up against the garage, on or under a wooden deck, or under a porch—all of these could potentially start fires
- ▶ After sitting in this metal container for a week the ashes are then safe to dispose of in your trash.

Alternatives to Disposal

- ▶ **How To Use Ash In The Garden:** Wood ashes contain potassium, some phosphorus and magnesium. Nutritional value varies according to the species of wood. Ashes from such hardwoods as maple, elm, oak and beech contain a third more calcium plus more potash than the ashes from softwoods.
- ▶ **How much wood ash should you use in your garden?** Use one gallon of ashes per square yard on loam to clay-loam soil, and half as much on sandier soils. If you are top dressing the lawn or flowerbeds use only about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of ashes per year.