

COOL YOUR ASHES!

Every year, “cold ashes” result in house fires.

FACT: Many people don’t realize how long it takes for ashes to fully cool. Coals and ashes from fires can stay hot enough to reignite and start a fire for days after the flames are gone. Cooling times vary depending on fire intensity, materials burned, and the amount of unburned fuel remaining.

When it's time to dispose of ashes:

- Use a **metal container** with a **tight-fitting lid**.
- Wet the ashes thoroughly.
- **NEVER** use a paper, plastic, or cardboard container. These materials can ignite easily.
- **DO NOT** place other combustibles in the container.

DO NOT remove hot ashes from a fireplace immediately. Let ashes and coals cool in the fireplace for several days. Use tools designed to contain heat safely.

NEVER use a vacuum cleaner to clean up ashes.

DO NOT dispose of ashes outdoors on a windy day. Wind can blow hidden embers and ignite nearby combustibles.

Store the metal container OUTSIDE, away from the house and other structures like decks, garages, fences, and sheds.

