

City of Kearney Outdoor Fire Pits and Chimney Requirements

1. A minimum ten-foot clearance shall be maintained between the outdoor fireplace and combustible walls, roofs, fences, decks and other combustible material.
2. Outdoor fireplaces shall be constructed of non-combustible materials. The fire fuel area and all openings completely enclosed by an approved non-combustible screening material with openings not larger than ½-inch square. Not permitted are barrels, half-barrels, drums or similarly constructed devices.
3. The fuel area for a fire pit shall not be larger than three (3) feet in diameter and a height of more than two (2) feet.
4. Outdoor fireplaces shall be placed on a stable non-combustible surface. Outdoor fireplaces shall not be located on or under any wooden balconies above the first floor attached to a multiple family dwelling of three or more living units located one above the other or located under any overhanging part of a structure.
5. Burn untreated wood. Construction materials, petroleum products, household waste, grass, leaves, cardboard, or any material that may flow out of the containment or cause excessive heat, smoke, or offensive smell are prohibited.
6. Limit the amount of material being burnt to ensure the flames are confined inside the fuel area of the outdoor fireplace and the flames do not extend into the chimney or above the pit. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation on the maximum amount of fuel to be used at one time.
7. Outdoor fireplaces shall be under constant supervision by at least one responsible person of age 18 or older from the ignition of the fire until the fire is completely extinguished and embers are cool and the fire will not rekindle.
8. A garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire extinguishing equipment shall be available for use.
9. Outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated when winds are blowing over 10 mph and wind direction will cause smoke, embers, or other burning materials to be carried by the wind toward any building or other combustible materials. Outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated when weather conditions are extremely dry.
10. The owner is responsible to ensure proper maintenance and care is accomplished in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
11. The fire chief is authorized to require outdoor fireplace use to be immediately discontinued if the use of the outdoor fireplace is determined by the chief to constitute a hazardous condition or the smoke is a nuisance to occupants of surrounding property.
12. For more information check City of Kearney Code Chapter 4, Article 3 Fire Prevention Code