

What is a Fire Blanket?

Fire blankets are made of a thin and foldable fire resistant material. A convenient size is approximately 2 ½ feet by 2 ½ feet. The blanket should be lined with about 5 inches of mineral soil to protect the blanket and the ground from the heat. Fire blankets are lighter and much more portable than Fire Pans, but are less desirable because the mineral soil must be moved, and sources of such soil are sometimes difficult to locate.

What is a Fire Pan?

Fire pans are metal trays with sides high enough to contain wood and ashes (about 3 inches). Metal oil drain pans and backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive fire pans. You can also purchase a lightweight fire pan from some outdoor stores. The pan should be propped up on small rocks or lined with several inches of mineral soil to protect the ground surface underneath from the heat.



How do I Use a fire pan/blanket?

Locate a naturally occurring source of mineral soil, sand, or gravel such as the hole left by a tree's roots when it blows over, or large stream courses where sand or fine gravel has been deposited in non-vegetated areas along the banks. Use a pot or stuff sack to carry the soil to the fire site.

On top of the fire blanket or pan, build a circular, flat-topped fire platform, 4-6 inches thick and about 2 feet across, with the mineral soil. The thickness of the soil is critical for insulating the blanket and ground underneath from the heat of the fire. As mentioned before, you can avoid using mineral soil if you have a fire pan and use small rocks to elevate it off the ground.

When selecting firewood, use only dead and downed wood no larger than the size of your wrist. This size of wood can be broken into appropriate lengths by hand and will burn easily and completely to ash. Also, take the extra time to gather wood from a large area so the immediate vicinity is not left unnaturally bare

Once the ashes are cold and the trash is removed (look for foil from foil lined packages), the cold ashes can be scattered over vegetated areas away from camp

Low Impact Campfires

The natural appearance of many areas has been compromised by the careless use of fires and the ever-increasing demand for firewood. Because of excessive impacts, depletion of firewood, and the subsequent management burden, many areas have campfire restrictions established. The regulations on the opposite page should be used to determine where a campfire is allowed and whether a fire pan/blanket is required in the area you are traveling.

When choosing to have a campfire, you should make your decision based on regulations, ecological conditions, weather, skill, use levels, and firewood availability. If you do have a campfire, the four guidelines below should be followed to minimize the impact of your campfire.

- **Use existing fire rings.**
- **Use wood no larger than the size of your wrist.**
- **Remove all your trash from the fire ring when finished (especially foil).**
- **Scatter the cold ashes away from your campsite.**



Sawtooth Wilderness Campfire Regulations

- All campfires must be on a fire pan or fire blanket.
- Campfires are NOT allowed in trailless areas July 1st - Labor Day
- Campfires are NOT allowed in the following DRAINAGES: Alice/Twin Lakes, Toxaway/Farley Lakes, Goat Creek (tributary to the S. F. of the Payette River) and Alpine Creek Lakes (Near Alturas Lake)
- Campfires are NOT allowed within 200 yards of the following lakes: Sawtooth, Goat, and Alpine Lakes near Iron Creek, Alpine and Saddleback (Shangri-la) Lakes in the Redfish drainage and Scenic Lakes.

Boulder/White Clouds Campfire Regulations

- Use of gas stoves is highly recommended
- Campfires are NOT allowed within 200 yards of the following lakes: Cirque, Sapphire, Cove, Slide, Sheep, Tin Cup, Gunsight, Four Lakes Basin, Shallow, Scree, Castle, and Chamberlain 9849
- Build campfires only in existing fire rings

Where Can I Get a Fire Pan/Blanket?

Fire Blankets

Stanley Ranger Station
Redfish Lake Visitor Center
Sawtooth NRA Headquarters
Stanley - Mt. Village Mercantile
Ketchum - Backwoods Mt. Sports
Ketchum - Elephants Perch
Boise - Benchmark
Boise - REI

Fire Pans

Stanley - Riverwear (rentals)
Ketchum - Backwoods Mt. Sports
Boise - Benchmark
Mail Order - Cascade Outfitters
(800) 223 - 7328

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CAN I HAVE A CAMPFIRE?



Campfire policies in the Sawtooth Wilderness and Boulder/White Clouds Backcountry

It is now possible to enjoy a small fire, where permitted, and "Leave No Trace". This brochure will explain where campfires are allowed, what regulations apply, and how to minimize the impacts of a campfire.