

Firestarter

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN KEEPING COSY AT CAMP AND BRAAIING ON AN OLD-SCHOOL WOOD FIRE

(HOW TO MAKE A WOOD FIRE)



1

SMALL IS BETTER

Let's start with heat.

In 2015, this usually means Blitz and a cigarette lighter, but there are more effective ways of generating enough heat to get your fire going. Dry kindling is the real winner. Put small, fine twigs at the bottom of your pile and gradually work up to sticks and branches on top.

2

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Now for the fuel – aka, wood.

Light-coloured wood like Port Jackson burns quickly, but makes awful coals. Darker coloured wood such as kameeldoring is a mission to light, but will still be sizzling when you want to roast marshmallows at midnight. Whatever wood you choose, make sure it's dry.

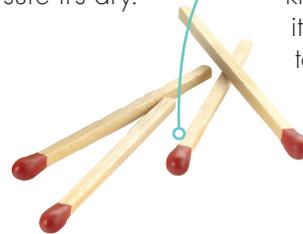


3

TAKE CARE

Now that you've laid your fire, you have to light it.

Put a lit match at the bottom of your kindling pile and watch it carefully. Don't leave to grab another drink.



4

AND BLOW!

The last side of the triangle is oxygen. Two fire types lend themselves to good oxygen flow: the teepee (logs leaning towards the centre like a pyramid) and the log cabin (logs laid two-by-two in alternating directions). Airflow is essential so as not to smother the fire.



5

SCOUT'S HONOUR

You're only safe when the kindling has been used up and the logs are burning. Remember never to leave your fire unattended and always put it out completely before going to bed.



KNOW THIS

If there's no kindling, these items will do the trick:

- ▶ Tumble-dryer lint
- ▶ Tea bags soaked in paraffin
- ▶ Old egg cartons filled with cooking oil.



PLANNING PERFECT

All fires require three ingredients to survive: heat, fuel and oxygen. Take one of the sides of the fire triangle away and you're left with a pile of blackened sticks. Making a good fire is all about planning; put in the time and you'll reap the rewards.