



BONFIRES ON LEWES BEACH

The City allows bonfires along the Lewes beach shoreline after 6pm during the peak season of Memorial Day to Labor Day and after 4pm during the off-season. Below are commonly asked questions about how one goes about having a bonfire on Lewes Beach.

Is a permit required to have a bonfire in Lewes?

Yes, you must obtain a permit before having a bonfire on Lewes Beach.

How do I get a permit for a bonfire?

On the City of Lewes website, click the link for Parks & Recreation, Under 'Info' tab you will find a link for **Bonfires**. There you will be able to download the permit request form. You can email, fax, mail, or hand in the form to city hall. All contact information is found on the form.

How much is the permit for a bonfire?

It depends on the number of people attending the bonfire. If your gathering is under 25 people then the cost is \$25.00. If your gathering is over 25 people then the cost is \$50.00.

How can I pay for the permit?

You can pay by credit card, check, cash, or money order. Credit cards can be taken over the phone, at City Hall, or you can put the credit card information on the bonfire form. All permit fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.

When do I get the permit back?

Please allow 2-3 business days for the permit to be emailed back to you. Please check your spam folders if you do not see the bonfire permit within the time period. Permits are NOT mailed out. If you wish to pick up your permit at City Hall please indicate that on your form. You can have the permit in hand or available electronically (accessed by your phone) during your bonfire.

Where can we have a bonfire?

Anywhere along the Lewes shoreline. The Lewes shoreline starts at Roosevelt Inlet by the Lewes Yacht Club and extends all the way down to Cape Shores. This area includes the houses along Bay Ave, Pilot Point, and Cape Shores communities. Beach 1 is the beach across from the Dairy Queen, and Beach 2 is across from East of Maui surf shop.



Do you limit the number of bonfires per night?

Generally on average there could be 4 bonfires going on at any location on any night. The beach areas are wide enough that you should not be on top of each other. The City does keep track of all permits and gatherings so that if a large request does come in they will limit the number of events/permits issued.

What happens if it rains on the date of our bonfire?

On the request form you can list a rain date option for your permit. If you don't list a rain date, you can contact the city before the scheduled date/time of your bonfire to change the date. The City does not issue refunds for bonfire or event or wedding permits.

What does the permit cover?

The permit only allows your gathering to have an open flame on the beach. It does NOT cover amplified music, a large party/event with tents and catering, weddings, etc. The permit is only for the open flame. So that includes cooking or grilling on the beach.

What do you mean by open flame?

The open flame is anything where you will be burning wood or coal or gas and having an open flame. So if you want to cook on the beach it requires a bonfire permit. ***Your unit MUST have a containment bottom. There is NO burning directly in the sand.*** We don't want anyone to accidentally walk on hot coals in the sand.

Does the city supply the bonfire for me?

No, the City does not. You have to bring your own containment unit and supplies. The City does not have any for rent or for use.

What are the hours for a bonfire?

During peak season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) bonfires can start AFTER 6pm. During off-season bonfires can start AFTER 4pm. All bonfire gatherings, containment units and supplies must be cleared off the beach by midnight.

What can we bring/have at our bonfire?

You can bring what you would typically see during a visit to the beach. Beach chairs, beach tents/umbrellas, beach towels, a cooler/picnic, small handheld size/phone speaker for music, beach games. If your gathering turns larger than that- then you would need an Event Permit.



Can we cook during the bonfire?

Yes you can do hamburgers, hotdogs, s'mores, any typical beach cookout is fine. There is NO ALCOHOL OR SMOKING PERMITTED ON LEWES BEACH ANYWHERE. You can NOT cook on the beach during the day. Open flame requires a bonfire permit.

What do we do with our trash?

ALL trash must be put in a trash can receptacle. Nothing is to be left next to, on top of, outside of any trash can on City property. If the trash won't fit inside the trash can, you must take it with you and dispose of it at home. Leaving trash outside of a trash can receptacle will cause debris and trash to scatter across the beach and parking lot and could end up with the revoking of your bonfire privileges in the future.

Are there bathrooms available during bonfire hours?

There are bath houses located at Beach 1 and Beach 2. Any issues with the bathrooms after 6pm during the peak season and after 4pm during the off season please call Lewes PD (302) 645-6264. There are port-a-potties located at Roosevelt Inlet.

Is there anything we are NOT allowed to have on the beach?

The following are not permitted and/or illegal: Fireworks, sky lanterns, smoking, alcohol, sparklers, amplified music with speakers/microphones (unless you received council approval), bouncy houses, inflatable movie screens, generators...if you are in doubt just call City Hall and ask.

Are dogs allowed on the beach?

Dogs are allowed on the beach BEFORE 8 am and AFTER 6:30 pm between May 1st and September 30th. Dogs must be on a leash at all times and owners must pick up after their dogs if the dog uses the beach as their bathroom. Questions refer to City Code Chapter 88: Dogs.

There is a dog park in Lewes if you would like to let your dog roam off leash. The dog park is operated by Lewes Unleashed <http://www.lewesunleashed.org/> and annual membership fee is \$60 per family. This is the only area where dogs can be off leash within City limits, unless you are on private property.

What if I have another question not listed here?

You can email your question to akirk@ci.lewes.de.us or call City Hall at (302) 645-7777.