



TINDER, FIREWOOD & FIRE LAYS

Natural Tinders-

OUTER BARKS- Birch (contain oil) scrapings, Wild Cherry (some oil), Clematis rubbed vigorously to buff up, Honeysuckle is good but is used by Doormice for nesting material and so should be avoided.

INNER BARKS- Western Red Cedar, Lime (also excellent cordage).

FLOWER HEADS- Clematis/Old mans' beard, add to barks for flash combustion, Cat tail, Bull rush, Thistle, Dandelion & Willow herb seeds (all are collected in Autumn), dried grass & leaves, pine resin, down feathers, dead evergreen needles.

FUNGI- Crampball (King Alfreds' Cake), Hoof fungus (Beech trees in South England), Ganaderma.

Firewood-

ASH- medium/slow burn, good heat BEECH- almost as good as Ash ALDER- poor heat

HAWTHORN/BLACKTHORN- best slow burn with good heat & little smoke ELDER -very smokey, fast, little heat

APPLE, PEAR & CHERRY- slow, little flame good heat & scent DOUGLAS FIR- little flame or heat POPLAR- poor

PINE -bright flames, spits OAK- old & seasoned very strong heat, slow with little ash, acrid smoke unseasoned

LARCH- fair heat, crackly & scented CHESTNUT- good flame & heat, spits HAZEL- good WILLOW- poor BIRCH- good heat, fast SPRUCE quick burn, sparks

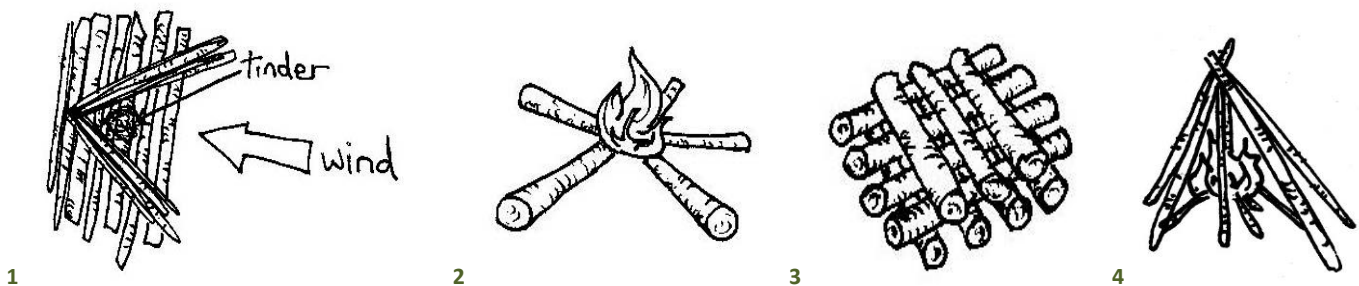
Fire Lays-

Seek permission from landlord/owner.

Firstly clear ground & check for dry roots, dead pine needles or any dry combustable material.

When finished with the fire, dowse well with water, make deep holes with stick to allow water to soak in (roots may smoulder). Finally spread the ashes thinly over woodland floor and leave no clues as to your stay.

1. V LAY – Make a bed of sticks & stack thumb sized sticks (about 10) into a V formation. The wind direction into the V apex. Light the tinder and then add two faggots of thin kindling as a V. Birch & Larch twigs are excellent for this kindling, otherwise dry willow herb & other hollow stemmed plants are effective. Add pencil thick sticks and then thicker sticks until the fire is well established. The fire can then be transformed into other desired fire lays. A V fire can be left when burning as the ground around the V is not affected by the fire.



2. STAR FIRE - Efficient on fuel but needs maintaining as logs need to be fed in a little at a time.

3. CRIS-CROSS FIRE – This is a cooking fire. Creates charcoal but burns a lot of wood. If it goes flat it will eventually go out.

4. TEPEE FIRE – Burns fast and can fall over. It is good for big bonfires but uses up resources quickly.