

Fireside

Essentials

User Instructions for Gardeco Firebowls

The Bijou Stove Company

User Instructions for Gardeco Firebowls

USER INSTRUCTIONS – OUTDOOR USE

Please read the following instructions and recommendations carefully and use **CAUTION at all times** for the safe enjoyment of your fire bowl. Keep these instructions in a safe place for future reference.

General Safety Instructions

- **ALWAYS follow the user instructions.** Failure to do so may result in injury or fire spreading to property. Remember, you are dealing with a real fire.
- Place your fire bowl on a **flat, stable, non-flammable surface** such as stone, gravel or bricks.
- **Do NOT place on:**

- Grass
- Wood
- Decking

Wooden decking should be protected with a [Gardeco Floor Protector](#) or by using concrete slabs or bricks.

- Keep the fire bowl away from:
 - Bushes and plants
 - Trees and overhanging branches
 - Awnings or canopies
 - Garden furniture, especially fabric or woven plastic furniture

We recommend at least **1 metre clearance** around the fire bowl.

- **DO NOT use indoors.**
Never light a real fire inside:
 - Conservatories
 - Summer houses
 - Sheds
 - Garages
 - Enclosed spaces

Smoke and fumes from wood, coal or charcoal fires contain toxic gases including carbon monoxide, which is colourless, odourless and potentially fatal.

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Fire Safety

- Surfaces become **extremely hot during use**. Do not touch while burning. Use suitable heat protection such as [Gardeco Fire Gloves](#).
- Keep children and pets away from the fire at all times.
- Do not allow children to run or play near the fire bowl.
- Do not overfill the fire. If flames extend out of the top of the fire bowl, the fire is too large.
- If fuel falls from the fire bowl or flames spread:
 - Stay calm
 - Extinguish immediately using sand, soil, water or a fire blanket
- Do not use petrol, paraffin or similar accelerants.

Recommended lighting materials:

- Firelighters
- Newspaper
- Kindling
- Gardeco Ocote sticks
- Never leave a burning fire unattended.
- Do not attempt to move the fire bowl while lit or still hot.
- Avoid use during:
 - Strong winds
 - Dry conditions or drought

Wind can spread sparks and burning debris.

- Be considerate to neighbours by minimising smoke and noise.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR FIRE BOWL

Recommended Fuels

Suitable fuels include:

- Dry wood logs
- Charcoal
- Coal
- Briquettes

You may also burn garden waste such as dry leaves or branches.

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Important

- Do not throw fuel into the fire bowl.
- Wet wood produces excessive smoke.

Lighting the Fire

Recommended methods:

- Firelighters
- Newspaper and kindling

During Use

- Wear **heat-resistant gloves** when adding fuel.
- Use a **poker** to reposition logs safely.
- Do not over-fuel the fire.

Important Note About Weight

Cast iron fire bowls are very heavy.

- At least **two people** are required to move them safely.
- Carry using the side handles and upper structure.
- Failure to do so may result in injury.

Charcoal & BBQ Grills

- Wood fires draw air from above.
- Coal and charcoal require airflow from underneath.

Some products include:

- Charcoal grills
- BBQ grills

If using wood only, a charcoal grill may not be necessary.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Paint Finish

Although coated with heat-resistant paint:

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The paint finish may burn off after use.

This is normal and not a defect.

The product can be repainted using:

- Gardeco high-temperature paint
- Suitable stove or BBQ paint

Rust & Corrosion

Cast iron and steel will naturally rust over time, especially when exposed to moisture.

Important

- Rust is normal
- Rust does not affect functionality
- Rust is not covered under warranty

A rusty fire bowl can still be used safely.

Reducing Rust

To minimise rusting:

- Wipe surfaces with vegetable oil after use
- Dry thoroughly after cleaning
- Store indoors when possible
- Use a weatherproof cover

Important

Never place a cover over a warm or hot fire bowl.

Cleaning

- Clean using a soft cloth
- Do not use wire brushes
- Minor scratches and wear are normal with outdoor use

COOKING SAFETY & HYGIENE

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Before First Use

All cooking accessories must be thoroughly cleaned before use.

Wash with:

- Hot water
- Mild detergent

Dry thoroughly afterwards.

Caring for Cooking Accessories

Before and after use:

- Lightly coat with vegetable oil
- Never use mineral oil

Failure to oil accessories may result in rust.

Soot & Residue

Cooking accessories exposed to fire will develop black soot.

Soot should be removed using:

- Hot water
- Washing-up liquid or detergent

Take care as soot can stain fabrics and surfaces.

COOKING WITH FIRE

Important

Do not cook directly over large flames.

Instead:

- Allow wood or charcoal to burn down to glowing embers
- Cook over the embers

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Tips

- Move food away if dripping fat causes flames
- Keep a spray bottle of water nearby
- Use cast iron cookware where possible
- Aluminium foil may help prevent contamination

FOOD SAFETY

When cooking outdoors:

- Keep raw meat cool and covered
- Do not leave food in direct sunlight
- Keep meat and vegetables separate
- Ensure meat is fully cooked
- Eat cooked food promptly while hot

Dispose of leftover cooked food safely.

Handling Hot Cooking Accessories

Cooking accessories become extremely hot.

- Place hot accessories only on hard, non-flammable surfaces
- Never place on:
 - Grass
 - Wood
 - Plastic
 - Furniture

Use **Gardeco Fire Gloves** when handling hot accessories.

COOKING ACCESSORIES

Gardeco cooking accessories are specifically designed for use with:

- Chimineas
- Fire bowls
- Outdoor fires
- BBQs

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Kitchen cookware is generally not suitable for patio fires due to higher temperatures.

Popular Gardeco accessories include:

- **Cast Iron Cooking Iron**
- **Frying Pan**
- **Smoker Pan**
- **Waffle Iron**
- **Chestnut Pan**
- **Toasting Fork**

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Wash all cooking accessories before every use
- Dry thoroughly after cleaning
- Coat cast iron accessories with vegetable oil before storage
- Remove and clean BBQ grills regularly
- Never touch hot cooking accessories with bare hands
- Cast iron remains hot for a long time after use

Always use caution and supervise outdoor fires responsibly.