

Precautions for Bioethanol Fuel in Residential Premises



Your EcoSmart Fire uses Bioethanol as fuel. The characteristics that make Bioethanol such an efficient fuel also present some risks, so these notes are designed to ensure that you can store and handle your fuel safely. The main things you need to know are precautions to prevent a fire, except of course when the fuel is in your EcoSmart Fire and ready to be used, and precautions to protect your health when handling the fuel. Your EcoSmart Fire has a number of safety advantages over other heat sources, but it is important that you read and understand these precautions.

Storing you fuel:

- Keep only sufficient fuel for your immediate needs - never store more than 100 litres.
- Keep only small packages which can be easily decanted into your Jerry Can.
- Keep your stock of fuel away from all sources of ignition, including electrical equipment, pilot lights etc.
- Keep your fuel secure, and ensure that it is not accessible by children.
- Do not position packages where they can fall or tip over.
- Keep your fire extinguisher accessible, but not too close to your fuel store.

Fuelling your EcoSmart Fire:

- Remove your fuel container from the store - never decant in the same area you store your fuel.
- Decant fuel into your Jerry Can, OR fuel your burner directly from the e-NRG bottle using the adaptor and Safety Spout fitted with a flame arrestor. **(When fuelling your burner always use containers with a flame arrestor)**
- Ensure you decant in a well ventilated area, away from ignition sources.
- Of course, “no smoking” applies.
- Make sure children and pets are not in the area while you decant your fuel.
- Vapours are heavier than air and can travel some distance to an ignition source. If you smell too much vapour, close the container and ventilate the area.
- Make sure your EcoSmart fire is cool - it only takes about 15 minutes from last use. Follow your fuelling instructions - these are designed to protect you and your property from fuelling errors.
- Before you light your EcoSmart Fire, close and remove your Jerry Can.
- Some fuels can be ignited by static. Bioethanol is not prone to this, but to be safe, never pour from a height and avoid splashing.
- If you spill any fuel, stop decanting, close all containers, and ventilate the area. Do not allow any ignition sources into the area of the spill.

Looking after your family and pets:

- Young children and pets do not always understand the hazards of fire places - always ensure your family and pets do not get too close to the fire.
- Never let children handle the fuel or light the fire.
- You should always have a family emergency plan - consult your local fire authority or contact The Fire Company.

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Looking after your health:

Bioethanol is not classified as hazardous by WorkSafe Australia - but there are few things you should be aware of:

- Read the label - this advice is often ignored, but do it at least once.
- Bioethanol is “denatured” using various chemicals which taste nasty and may be poisonous.
- If you have accidental contact with Bioethanol, irrigate the affected area with water. If symptoms persist, consult your medical practitioner.
- Take special care to protect your eyes. If contact occurs, irrigate your eyes with water for at least 15 minutes.
- In normal use with your EcoSmart Fire, inhalation of vapours will not be an issue. If you are concerned about odours, close all packages, ventilate the area, and contact The Fire Company.
- If you spill any, make sure there are no ignition sources and ventilate the area. Cover with absorbent material. Use kitchen gloves to avoid skin contact.
- If you have any concern about exposure to vapour or liquid, stop. Contact The Fire Company for advice.
- Remember: Bioethanol is flammable. To preserve its clean-burning characteristics, make sure that other materials and fuels are not introduced to your EcoSmart Fire.