

# Fire Ring Maintenance and Care Techniques

## 1. Cooking Grate Rust

Campfire rings that include a cooking grate will experience the same grate issues as on a charcoal grill. The cooking grate bars will also rust over time. This is not usually a problem on campfire rings that are used often because the grease and oils from grilled foods coat the grate bars.

Periodic cleaning is still a good idea. Simply scrape the bars clean with a grill and grate scraper. Any rusted spots can be cleaned with a wire brush.

A used grate should be cleaned and prepared before the next use:

- Clean it with a scraper and wire brush to remove rust.
- Thoroughly heat the grate by keeping it low and close to the coals.
- Raise the grate and scrape it clean again.

Alternative options include covering the grate with aluminum foil before cooking, or using a pot or skillet.

On a new campfire ring, the cooking grate should be seasoned before grilling directly on the steel bars. Season the grate by gradually burning the high-heat non-toxic paint off the grate bars during use. Before each use, clean with a wire brush to remove paint chips until seasoned. Until the grate is seasoned, use aluminum foil or cook in a pan.

## 2. Fire Ring Rust

The steel fire ring will begin to rust as the paint coating is burned off over time. Powder coat finishes are not suited for high heat and can burn off with the first fire. Specially formulated high heat enamel paint will last longer, but larger fires and frequent use will eventually burn off the finish.

Rust on the ring is primarily cosmetic and not a structural concern when using 3/16" thick steel. To touch up: remove all ashes and coals, wire-brush away rust, and apply a coat of high heat enamel paint to both inside and outside surfaces. This protects the ring during the off-season and prolongs its life.

Ashes accumulate inside the ring and, when combined with moisture, form a corrosive alkaline mixture. Regularly scoop out ashes using a fire ring cleanout shovel to reduce damage and prolong the ring's life.

Installation Notes:

- Rings placed directly on the ground: anchors keep them in place.
- Encircled by blocks or stones: may trap ash and moisture between the ring and blocks—clean both sides regularly.
- Partially or fully buried rings: constant exposure to ground moisture and ash accelerates corrosion and is not covered by warranty.