Build a Guy Competition: Guidelines for Bonfire-Safe Guys

If your Guy is going on the bonfire, please build it only from natural materials so it burns cleanly and safely. We'd love as many juniors as possible to enter this year's Build a Guy competition. Burning the wrong materials can release harmful fumes and leave waste that is hard to clear, especially so close to the reservoir and its wildlife.

What to use

• Clothing made from natural fibres, such as cotton, wool or linen. Old shirts, jumpers, jeans and cotton socks are ideal.

• Newspaper, scrap paper and cardboard for stuffing and shaping.

• Straw, hay, dry leaves or small twigs for filling or for hair.

• Paper bags or papier-mâché for the head, decorated with water-based paints or felt-tip pens.

• String, twine or cotton thread to tie and hold the Guy together.

• Masking tape or paper tape if you need to join pieces.

What to avoid

• Plastics of any kind, including plastic bags, bottles, toys, masks and buttons.

• Synthetic fabrics such as polyester, nylon, acrylic, fleece and most sportswear or fancy-dress costumes.

• Foam, polystyrene and bubble wrap.

• Rubber, including wellies, rubber gloves and balloons

• Glitter, sequins and plastic decorations.

• Spray paints, aerosols and gloss paints.

• Metal items, such as wire, zips, staples and drawing pins, as these stay hot and are left in the ashes.

• Attach any special decorations for judging loosely, so they can be removed before your Guy goes on the bonfire.

Want to keep your Guy?

Entrants are welcome to take their Guy home instead of burning it. If you choose this, you can use any materials you like, but please tell us when you register so we can label it clearly. Guys made to look like any of our instructors **will not be burned** and will be kept on display.

On the night

All Guys will be checked by a member of the organising team before going on the bonfire. Any Guy containing unsuitable materials will be set aside and can be taken home. Only adults from the organising team will place Guys on the bonfire.

Thank you for helping us keep the evening safe and enjoyable for everyone, and for looking after our reservoir environment

Suggestions for personalising your entry

- **Best Dressed Sailor Guy**: kitted out in buoyancy aid, sailing cap, wellies or oilskins made from old clothes (to be removed before burning)
- **Best Famous Mariner**: a pirate, Admiral Nelson, a round-the-world yachtsman, or even one of your club instructors. (Remember – celebrate, don't mock!)
- **Most Shipwrecked Guy**: the scruffiest, most weather-beaten "lost at sea" look.

Judging Categories :

- Most Creative Use of Recycled Materials
- Funniest Guy
- Most Lifelike Guy
- Best Backstory: each entrant writes a short sentence or two about who their Guy is.