



# Firepans

## ***Contain campfires while protecting the landscape***

Firepans eliminate the obvious signs of camp fires and protect the natural environment. Fires built in rock rings damage ground cover and soils and the rock rings scar the natural beauty of campsites and reduce the amount of space available for sleeping and cooking areas.

Several types of firepans are currently on the market. The larger firepans can accommodate the use of dutch ovens as well as grills. Smaller units are lighter, and will take up less space in the craft. Features available include collapsible legs, aluminum lids, self-contained ash transport, removable grills, and carrying straps and cases. An ash container, if not a feature of your firepan, is also a necessary component of any low impact campfire setup.

Firepans are available at most river supply retailers.

### **USING A FIREPAN**

- Before the fire is built, elevate pan off the ground three to four inches by using small rocks; this will prevent the scorching of vegetation or leaving a hot spot in the sand for someone to step on.
- Place a 1/2 inch layer of sand or dirt on the bottom of the pan. This prevents pan burnout and lengthens the life of your firepan.
- Use small wood for your morning fire. As you break camp, let your fire burn down as completely as possible.
- Scoop ashes into ash container, pour and stir a small amount of water into ashes to dampen. This procedure will cool down any hot ashes that are left. Pouring water into firepan causes the pan to warp.
- When you rebuild your fire, place the dampened ashes into your firepan in place of the sand or dirt. Repeating this procedure every day continually burns the old ashes to a fine powder.
- If you decide to use an ash container, you can use a metal or hard-plastic container with a sealable lid, such as a large ammo-can, a five-gallon paint can or a heavy-duty plastic bucket. Plastic bags are not recommended.

