



Smoking Safety Tip:

Planters are not ashtrays!

According to Fire & Life Safety Educators of Colorado, potted plant fires resulted in almost \$4 million worth of property damage and the loss of one life in Colorado.

Fires

can start
old when
potting
soil is used
as an
ashtray.



Easy ways to prevent
potting soil fires!

- ❁ Do not use old planter pots that contain potting soil as ashtrays.
- ❁ Put an ashtray in areas where someone might be smoking around potted plants.
- ❁ If you have dead plants in pots, throw them away or spread the soil from the pots in your yard or garden.
- ❁ Keep your potted plants watered and maintained.
- ❁ If you keep potting soil in your garage or on your deck, don't leave it near any combustible material.



"When a cigarette butt is extinguished in the soil of a potted plant, it may cause the materials in the soil mix to ignite."

What makes potting soil

flammable?

Potting soil can be made of shredded bark, wood and/or peat moss, styrofoam pellets, perlite and vermiculite; all of which are flammable.

Many mixtures also include different types of fertilizers. Some fertilizers are oxidizers which will make any fire that starts, grow at an even faster rate.

Bacterial decomposition begins to occur in old potting soil, which creates heat. This decomposition is what makes compost piles and bales of hay heat up.

Matches and stray fireworks may also cause potting soil mixture around a dead potted plant to ignite.



gary the garden gnome says:

"Leave the potting soil for the plants!"

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