



Hot Coals Receptacles

By Lester A. Sinclair, Landscape Architect

Background

Hot coals from barbecues and hibachis have been a problem for many Forest Service recreation sites. Without providing a proper place to dispose of hot coals, forest visitors discard hot coals in and around recreation facilities (under picnic tables, next to trash cans, in dumpsters, near water edges).

Fire pits, when available, can double as hot coals disposal units. Garbage cans may also be used for hot coals disposal. However, if the coals are still burning, this method may cause fires and damage the container. Disposing of hot coals can result in resource damage to both the site and facilities. In addition to the obvious fire hazard, unburned charcoal remnants increase maintenance and degrade the aesthetic character of a clean site.

In response to a field submitted project proposal, the Center found two products that address this concern.

Possible Solutions

The solutions discussed below are different in their approach but solve the same problem.

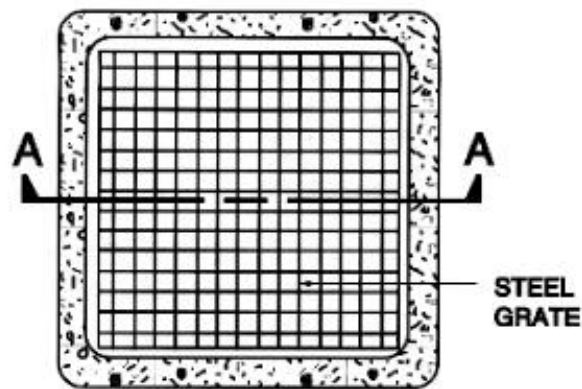
Hot Coals Receptacle (pre-cast concrete)

Precast Concrete Inc. molds a 4000 PSI pre-cast concrete receptacle that holds up to 8 cubic feet (0.23 m³) of hot coals (figures 1 and 2). The unit consists of an upright concrete container with a steel grate. Dumped coals fall through the grate into the container. Trash, larger than briquette size, will not fall through. The receptacle, manufactured in Santee, California, costs approximately \$410.00, plus shipping. Delivery is available anywhere in the continental U.S.

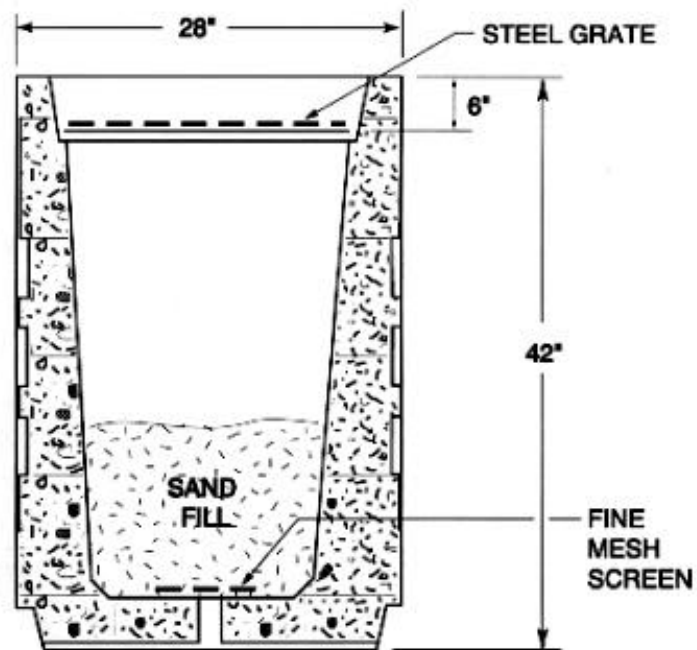
The receptacle has a sandblasted finish and comes in two standard colors, natural gray and tan. Other colors can be special ordered to suit customer needs. A large graphic image of a flame on all four sides reduces any confusion about the receptacle's intended use. The unit measures 28-in x 28-in x 42-in high (0.7 m x 0.7 m x 1.07 m) and weighs approximately 1400 lb. (635 kg). The container, designed with a steel grate 6 inches (150 mm) below the top of the unit, keeps small children from reaching inside. The receptacle should be filled with approximately 10 inches (254 mm) of sand—1/4 the depth of the unit—to act as a filter and to facilitate drainage. The sand also keeps the coal dust from draining away after a rain. The unit has a hole in the center of the bottom for drainage. Remove the steel grate prior to emptying the ash. Then, use a long handled flat shovel to remove the ash deposited above the level of the sand.



Figure 1
Concrete Hot Coals Receptacle
by Precast Concrete Inc.



Section A-A



Plan

Figure 2. Hot Coals Receptacle drawing.

Manufacturer:
 Precast Concrete Inc.
 9702 Prospect Avenue
 Santee, CA 92071-4588
 Tel. (619) 449-6810
 Fax (619) 449-5805

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Hot Coals Container (metal)

McClintock Metal Fabricators in Woodland, California has recently manufactured a metal hot coals container (figures 3 and 4). The container, manufactured with riveted 12 gauge galvanealed steel, is finished with a red coat of polyurethane paint over a coat of primer. The hot coals basket is painted black. The unit is approximately 26-in x 42-in x 48-in (0.6 m x 1.1 m x 1.2 m) and can hold up to 6 cubic feet (0.17 m³) of coals. The unit is easy to empty; the rear of the container swings open to allow for maintenance access. The container can be bolted to a hard, level concrete (or similar) surface. The cost of the unit is approximately \$780.00 and is available through GSA. Volume discounts are available. Shipping is extra. Cost depends on the customer's location and quantity ordered. Delivery is available anywhere in the U.S.



*Figure 3. Hot Coals Container
by McClintock Metal Fabricators, Inc.*



Figure 4. Hot Coals Container.

Manufacturer:

McClintock Metal Fabricators, Inc.
455 Harter Avenue
Woodland, CA 95776-6105
Tel. (916) 666-6007 or (800) 350-3588
Fax: (916) 666-7071

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