

Lighters to Make Fire!



1. The **Flint and Steel** on the left is a way of making a spark. All of the lighters shown above use flint and steel to light the fuel they contain.

2. The camouflaged **Zippo lighter** is just about indestructible. It burns lighter fluid. Because the lighter is not sealed, that lighter fluid can evaporate. You then have a lighter that won't light.

3. The blue **BIC butane lighter** in the center has one problem. You cannot tell how much propane is left in it. A lighter with transparent sides, like #4, provides a fuel gauge. When a lighter is 1/4 full, it's time to leave it home. **The flame must be adjustable, to get the largest flame possible to start your fire.**

4. The red lighter with transparent sides is a **Chinese copy of the BIC**. Its problem is the plastic flame guard. It's inexpensive to build, and it melts. **The flame guard must be metal.**

5. The **camping lighter** on the right is my personal favorite. It is fueled by butane and has a small window on the side to show how much liquid butane is left. It has two locks, one across the top of the cover, and the latch on the left side. No way it can open by accident! The flame is a pressurized gas flame that doesn't blow out in wind and even works bottom-side-up. The case is strong. Its weakest point is the plastic hinge that holds the top on.

You should know how to use flint and steel, and carry it with you, in case of emergency. While I demonstrate how to light fires with flint and steel - **I always carry a couple of lighters and use them to light my own fires.** They are much more reliable. Test your lighters before a camping trip, though!

If someday the technology isn't there, and the lighters run out of fuel, you could still start a fire with flint and steel. **A lighter with no fuel STILL uses flint and steel to make a spark!**