

There are alternatives...

Throughout our region, and particularly wherever outdoor burning is prohibited, alternatives to burning are available. These alternatives include home composting, curbside pick-up of yard waste for recycling, drop boxes and transfer stations. Call your county solid waste department for information about what alternatives are available in your area.

King County Solid Waste Division
(206) 296-4466

Kitsap County Solid Waste
(360) 337-5777 or (800) 825-4940

Pierce County Solid Waste
(253) 798-2179

Snohomish County Solid Waste
(425) 388-3425

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In many areas...



...What about where you live?

Are you willing to risk up to \$13,000 per day in fines?

Get the facts before you burn...



In Washington State...

- It's always illegal to use a BURN BARREL.
- It's always illegal to burn prohibited materials including
 - Garbage or refuse
 - Cardboard or paper (except what's necessary to start the fire)
 - Building materials, including paints, vinyl flooring, roofing and scrap lumber
 - Rubber products, including tires
 - Plastics or petroleum products
 - Dead animals
 - Any other material that produces smoke that is offensive or harmful to your neighbors
- It's always illegal to smoke out your neighbor. If they complain, you are required to put the fire out immediately. You can be fined for causing a nuisance, and you may be held financially liable for damages caused by your fire.

Washington State law prohibits residential burning and land-clearing fires in urbanized areas.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has adopted state outdoor burning regulations (found in Agency Regulation 1, Article 8) and enforces them in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Why is outdoor burning banned for most of us? Because breathing smoke is bad for your health, particularly for children, people over 50 and anyone with asthma or other respiratory problems.

Check first with your local fire department. Before burning, contact your local fire department to determine if burning is allowed in your area. If it is, ask about permit requirements and any other local requirements or restrictions.

You can only burn vegetative matter. Where burning is allowed, fires are limited to vegetative material grown on the property, such as leaves, branches and twigs.



Hauled material. Outdoor fires cannot include material hauled from another property unless it is seasoned firewood.

Land-clearing fires. Developers may be allowed to burn land-clearing debris in some places outside the urbanized areas, subject to a permit and strict controls from the local fire department.

However, alternatives to burning land-clearing debris are readily available in most areas. Under state law, developers will be required to use these alternatives in the near future as outdoor burning is phased out.

Agricultural burning. Agricultural burning permits are available only to farmers who can demonstrate through tax records that they run a commercial agricultural operation and that the burning is necessary or meets criteria

for best management practices. For more information on agricultural burning permits, call (206) 343-8800 or (800) 552-3565.



If you're thinking about burning outdoors, here's what you need to know...

Violations of outdoor burning regulations can be costly. Fines can exceed \$13,000 per day and typically start at \$2,000 plus reimbursement costs for fire department responses.

Contact your local fire department before you burn.

Allowed fires. Even within the urbanized no-burn areas, recreational fires are allowed on your own private

property and in designated locations in some public parks. However, these fires are restricted in size.

According to state rules (WAC 173-425-030), the term "recreational fires" means "cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial

purposes. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires."

Further, a permit is required for "recreational fires with a total

fuel area greater than three feet in diameter and/or two feet in height." Some fire departments require a permit for all recreational fires, so be sure to check with your local fire department before lighting a recreational fire.

If a fire-safety burn ban is in place (typically called in the summer), or if an air-quality burn ban is called (typically in the fall and winter), outdoor fires are prohibited on public and private property. Call your local fire department and (800) 595-4341 for burn ban information.

Online resources. For more information about health effects from breathing smoke, visit the American Lung Association of Washington Web site at www.alaw.org. For text of regulations and additional information, visit the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Web site at www.pscleanair.org.



Remember... Call your local fire department before lighting an outdoor fire.