

Open air burning is a sort of tradition

But every time we burn outdoors, we contribute to air pollution in our area. Whether it's waste from yards, home, businesses or land-clearing, it all adds up to unhealthy air.

What's blowing in the wind?

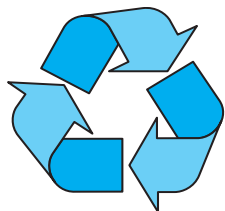
Smoke from outdoor burning clogs our air with a mixture of fine particles and other toxic pollutants that can lodge deep in our lungs when we breathe. It can make breathing difficult and cause serious health problems for many of us.

Be a good neighbor

It is never legal to impact your neighbors with smoke, ash or odors. Always consider the time of day, proximity to others, type of material, wind direction and other weather conditions such as air stagnation.

Not the same ol' trash

Burning household waste is a serious threat to public health and to the environment. Toxic chemicals, including dioxins, are produced when household waste is burned. One household burn barrel emits more dioxin than a municipal waste incinerator serving thousands of homes. Burning of debris can cause another problem... **Forest Fires.**



Reduce, reuse, recycle

Many items that are burned in a trash pile or burn barrel can often be recycled. Newspapers, glass, cardboard and many plastics can be recycled. Grass clippings and leaves are ideal to add to a compost pile. Your old attic junk could be given away for someone else to reuse.

Check in the back of your local telephone directory for recycling information and sites in your area.

Free local garbage collection days

West Virginia's Municipal Sanitary Waste Landfills are required to have free monthly household garbage "dump" days.

Open burning of garbage is illegal! It's the law! 45 CSR 6 "Control of Air Pollution from Combustion of Refuse"

Certain kinds of open burning are still allowed if it doesn't create a nuisance and if it is not prohibited by local ordinances. These types of fires are allowed:

- Vegetation (leaves, branches and other vegetative matter) grown on the premises of a home or farm
- Campfires and outdoor barbecues
- DAQ-approved open burning of land-clearing debris described in this pamphlet
- DAQ-approved fire training as described in this pamphlet

If in violation of the open burning law, 45 CSR 6, refusal to comply may result in a Notice of Violation and/or a fine of up to \$10,000 a day.

Materials illegal to open burn include:

- Household trash (burn barrels and/or piles) including paper products – such as cardboard, boxes, etc.
- Construction or demolition materials (examples: lumber, flooring, roofing material, carpet, rubber, plastic, styrofoam, etc.)
- Wooden pallets and other packaging materials
- Tires or other rubber products
- Asbestos-containing materials *including* building materials
- Insulation from copper wire
- Waste paints, waste oil, or solvents

Open burning of land-clearing debris must be "approved"

- Vegetative material generated by clearing of land for purposes of preparation for development, construction, mining or other such activity may be open burned provided there is no practical alternative disposal method.
- Non-vegetative (ex. construction debris) material is not considered land-clearing debris.
- Pitburners should be used whenever practical and may be required in non-rural areas.

- Must complete the *Approval to Conduct Open Burning* form and receive written approval from DAQ.

Guidelines for the open burning of vegetation and land-clearing debris

- It must be thoroughly dried at least 10 days and piled to promote combustion.
- No trunks, limbs or stumps over eight (8) inches in diameter (before splitting) are allowed.
- It must be conducted during daylight hours, which requires the size of piles to be small enough to burn out before dark.
- Fires must be completely extinguished and not allowed to smolder at night.
- All fires must be surrounded by a 10-foot clearing to prevent escape to potential combustible materials.
- Never leave fires unattended, and keep a shovel and water source nearby.
- Health, safety, comfort and property of neighbors must be protected from the effects of such burning.



Bona fide fire training must be "approved"

- Fire Training is for the instruction and training of public and industrial employees and members of volunteer fire departments.
- "Pan fires" using propane, fuel oil or wood (must be approved by the DAQ).
- Burning of structures must be for training purposes only — with the following provisions:
 - All asphalt or asbestos-containing materials must be removed.
 - Trainers must contact and obtain approval from the DAQ for ALL structures to comply with the federal Asbestos NESHAP.
 - Upon completion of training, fires must be immediately and completely extinguished to prevent smoldering.
 - Properly dispose of all remaining debris.

Division of Air Quality

Charleston	304-926-0475
Fairmont	304-368-3910
Romney	304-822-7266
Wheeling	304-238-1220

Division of Forestry

Beckley	304-256-6775
Charleston	304-558-2788
Elizabeth	304-275-0261
Farmington	304-825-6983
Milton	304-743-6186
Romney	304-822-4512

West Virginia Department of Commerce
Division of Forestry
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 25305-0180

It all adds up to cleaner air!

Remember

During forest fire seasons (March 1 - May 31 and Oct. 1 - Dec. 31) no open burning may be conducted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. unless a burning permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry and the proper permit fees paid.

Also, approval is required from the Division of Air Quality for the open burning of land clearing debris. Please contact your local DAQ office for assistance.

DEP/Division of Air Quality
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304
www.dep.wv.gov/air



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Know the law about OPEN BURNING

Burning garbage is illegal!