

## Outdoor Burning (Non-Agricultural)

This web site provides information about burning of household yard waste, such as leaves, grass, brush and other yard trimmings; and burning to clear land of trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation. Ecology regulates all types of outdoor burning except forest burning, which is regulated by the [Washington State Department of Natural Resources](#). This web site does not include information on [agricultural burning](#).



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### Is outdoor burning legal in Washington?

Outdoor burning is banned in all [urban growth areas](#) in Washington. If you live outside the boundaries of an urban growth area, it is legal to burn natural vegetation, but you should consider alternatives to burning.

**Find out [what you can do instead of burning](#).**

Garbage burning and burn barrels are illegal **everywhere** in Washington, and have been for many years. [Find out about exchanging your burn barrel for a compost bin.](#)

### Things to know before you burn

- **Burn barrels are illegal.**
- Burning is not the only way to dispose of natural vegetation. Consider composting and chipping.
- Where residential burning is allowed, the burn pile must be smaller than 4'x4'x3'.
- You may burn only one pile at a time.
- When and where burning is allowed, you may only burn unprocessed natural vegetation.
- Your smoke must not impact your neighbors, and you must put out your fire if it does.
- Do not leave your fire unattended.
- The fire should not include materials hauled from another property.
- It is illegal to burn construction and demolition debris.
- Always check with your local fire department for permit and safety requirements before you light any outdoor fire.
- You are encouraged (and may be required) to call and follow our Burn Day Hotline:

1-800-406-5322

**Outdoor burning laws and rules**

- [Outdoor burning law \(RCW 70.94, Washington Clean Air Act\)](#)
  - [Guidance on converting the old statutory numbers to the new statutory numbers.](#)
- [Outdoor burning rule \(WAC 173-425\)](#)

**Other information**

["Kids' Rights" Outdoor Burning Video](#) (WMV File)

[Spring 2009 Outdoor Burning Campaign](#) (MP3 File) Audio Only

If you have questions, contact the Ecology regional office or the [local air quality agency](#) for your area.