

Backyard Burning: Before you burn... learn!

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Burning Basics

While burning may be the simplest way to clean up a site, you may be breaking the law.

Open burning, in a barrel or not, can release pollutants, reduce visibility, create unpleasant odors and cause toxic contamination.

With this in mind, burning can still be an effective way to clean some of the debris from your yard, farm or work site.

What you can burn

Burnable debris includes:

- Brush and fallen trees
- Used power and telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood or wood products not containing preservatives
- Solid waste from tree harvesting
- Straw, stubble, grass, weeds, leaves and tree prunings
- Solid waste from post and pole operations that does not contain wood preservatives

Remember to Recycle

- Many items that you may consider burning, can be recycled.
- Plastic, paper, cardboard and metal materials, used oil, tires and beverage containers along with many other items are recycled in Alberta. Call the Recycle Info Line at 1-800-463-6326 for local information.
- It's often more effective to chip and compost yard waste. Composting reduces household waste by up to 30%.

When do you need a permit to burn?

A permit is needed to burn:

- Prohibited debris anywhere in Alberta
- Burnable debris in restricted areas
- Contact your local fire department to learn more about restrictions and requirements

What you can't burn

Prohibited debris includes:

- Animal manure
- Pathological waste (waste from human health centres)
- Wood or wood products containing wood preservatives
- Waste materials from construction sites
- Rubber, including tires
- Plastic, including baler twine
- Oil
- Containers that held pesticides, or any other chemicals
- Plastic or rubber-coated materials, including copper wire

Where you can't burn

Prohibited areas include:

- Unauthorized burning is prohibited in all landfills.
- Burning is restricted in Calgary, Edmonton and many other rural and urban municipalities.

Be Sure!

Different laws regulate where you may burn, and some require you have a permit, even for burnable debris. Always contact your local municipality prior to striking a match.

For more information about where and what to burn, contact your regional Alberta office by dialing toll-free at 310-000

For more information about burning permits for Green Areas, call the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Information Centre at (780) 944-0313