



Before You Light It...  
**Know Ohio's  
 Open Burning  
 Regulations**

**Open burning is any time you  
 light an outdoor fire without  
 a chimney or stack.**

*When burning refuse in  
 burn barrels or open piles, the  
 potential cost to your health, your  
 home, your neighbors and your  
 environment far exceeds the price  
 of adequate collection services.*

Protect yourself, your neighbors and your  
 wallet by knowing the rules—what you can  
 burn and where.



For a complete copy of Ohio's open burning  
 regulations, contact:



Ohio EPA  
 Division of Air Pollution Control  
 P.O. Box 1049  
 Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
 (614) 644-2270

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**Why is open burning a problem?**

Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing.

The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

**What open burning is never allowed?**

Under Ohio law, these materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time:

- garbage—any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food;
- materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire; and
- dead animals—unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

**Other restrictions:**

- Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.
- Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or air fields.
- No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

**What happens if I'm caught illegally open burning?**

Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state's open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency. See the map in this brochure for the agency to contact in your area.

**Health Concerns**

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury. These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

**Does Ohio EPA ever allow exceptions to the rules?**

Under certain circumstances, yes. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, you must receive written permission from Ohio EPA *before* you begin burning. This may take two weeks.

**Can a community regulate open burning?**

Yes. However, local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law.

# What can I burn?

The following open fires are **allowed** in Ohio:

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TYPE OF FIRE	INSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* if generated on property	OUTSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* if generated on property
Barbeques, campfires cookouts	Wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent.	Wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent.
Agricultural waste	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production.  This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste.  <i>Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Must notify Ohio EPA in advance.</i>	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production.  This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste.  <i>Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile greater than 20 ft. wide x 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.</i>
Land-clearing waste	<b>Not permitted</b> in city limits.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. <i>With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.</i>
Residential waste	<b>Not permitted</b> in city limits.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Also wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two-, or three-family residences. <i>Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile greater than 10 ft. x 10 ft. x 10 ft. This may take two weeks.</i>
Ceremonial fires	Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent. <i>Must notify Ohio EPA in advance.</i>	Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. <i>No notification required.</i>
Occupational fires: welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers	Use clean, seasoned firewood contained in a 55-gallon drum.	Use clean, seasoned firewood contained in a 55-gallon drum.
Firefighter training, Explosive material disposal	<i>With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.</i>	<i>With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.</i>
Horticultural, silvicultural, range or wildlife management practices	<i>With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.</i>	<i>With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.</i>
Disease or pest control	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method <i>and must notify Ohio EPA in advance.</i>	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method.

\* villages and cities are considered "restricted areas," which include:

- within the boundaries of any municipal corporation;
- within corporation limits and a 1,000-foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000; and
- within corporation limits and a one-mile zone outside any municipal corporation with a population of more than 10,000.  
Call your local municipality for corporation boundaries.



If you live in a county where there is a number on the map, contact the local air agency that is identified. In all other counties, contact an Ohio EPA district office.

## Local Air Pollution Control Agencies

1. Akron Regional Air Quality Management District  
(800) 589-2480  
araqmd.org
2. Canton Division of Air Pollution Control  
(330) 489-3385  
cantonhealth.org/apc/
3. Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency  
(800) 889-0474  
southwestohioair.org
4. Cleveland Division of Air Quality  
(216) 664-2297  
clevelandhealth.org/network/air\_quality/air\_quality.php
5. Regional Air Pollution Control Agency  
(800) 458-2115  
rapca.org
6. Lake County Air Pollution Control  
(440) 350-2543  
lcghd.org/air\_quality/
7. Portsmouth Air Pollution Control  
(740) 353-5156  
portsmouthoh.org/health/air-division/
8. Toledo Division of Environmental Services  
(419) 936-3015  
toledo.oh.gov/departments/public-utilities/div-environmental-services/air-monitoring/
9. Mahoning-Trumbull Air Pollution Control Agency  
(330) 743-3333  
ychd.com/Services/AirPollution.aspx

## Ohio EPA District Offices

- CDO** Central District Office  
(800) 686-2330\* (614) 728-3778
- NEDO** Northeast District Office  
(800) 686-6330\* (330) 963-1200
- NWDO** Northwest District Office  
(800) 686-6930\* (419) 352-8461
- SEDO** Southeast District Office  
(800) 686-7330\* (740) 385-8501
- SWDO** Southwest District Office  
(800) 686-8930\* (937) 285-6357

\* Toll-free numbers are for calls within Ohio.