

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

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.

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 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.



What You Can Do Instead of Open Burning

- Reduce the amount of waste you generate.
- Reuse items in another way.
- Recycle - Contact your waste disposal provider about curb-side pickup or drop-off locations for bulky or hazardous items.
- Compost yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer.



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

epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning

Before You Light It...

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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.

What can I burn? The following open fires are **allowed** in Ohio ←

TYPE OF FIRE	INSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* If generated on property	OUTSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* If generated on property
Barbeques, campfires	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 dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Provide notification to Ohio EPA in advance. 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.	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 dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Provide notification to Ohio EPA if pile greater than 20 ft. wide x 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.
Land-clearing waste	Not permitted in city limits. Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.	Not permitted 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. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Provide notification to Ohio EPA if pile greater than 10 ft. x 10 ft. x 10 ft. This may take two weeks.
Ceremonial fires	Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent. Must notify Ohio EPA in advance. Use clean seasoned firewood. For example, a heating fire contained in a 55-gallon drum. Welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and firefighters	Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent. No notification required. Use clean seasoned firewood. For example, a heating fire contained in a 55-gallon drum.
Occupational fires:	Occupational fires: welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and firefighters	Occupational fires: welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and firefighters
Explosive material disposal	Firefighter training. Explosive material disposal	Firefighter training. Explosive material disposal
Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verities to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method and must notify Ohio EPA in advance.	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verities to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method and must notify Ohio EPA in advance.	Local health department, Ohio Department of Agriculture or U.S. Department of Agriculture verities to Ohio EPA that open burning is the only appropriate control method and must notify Ohio EPA in advance.
<p>* Villages and cities are considered "restricted areas," which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the boundaries of any municipal corporation; • within a corporation limits and a 1,000-foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of more than 10,000; and • Call your local municipality for corporation boundaries. 		

Local Air Pollution Control Agencies

Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (800) 589-2480 araqmd.org

Canton Division of Air Pollution Control (330) 489-3385 cantonhealth.org/apc/

Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (800) 889-0474 southwestohioair.org

Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (800) 458-2115 rapca.org

Lake County Air Pollution Control (440) 350-2543 lcgchd.org/?page_id=3687

Portsmouth Air Pollution Control (740) 353-5156 portsmouthhoh.org/health/air-division/

Toledo Division of Environmental Services (419) 936-3015 toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/environmental-services/air/

Cleveland Division of Air Quality (216) 664-2297 clevelandhealth.org/network/air_quality/air_quality.php

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

* Toll-free numbers are for calls within Ohio.

The Division of Air Pollution Control's jurisdictional boundaries for district offices and local air agencies are not the same as Ohio EPA's standard district boundaries. Standard district boundaries, indicated by the dark lines, are for reference only.