



Things You Should Know About Outdoor Burning

Outdoor burning is categorized by the intent of the burning. State and local regulations include rules for the following types of outdoor burning:

- Residential – the burning for disposal of vegetative debris generated on a residential property (yard and garden debris, tree trimmings, etc.);
- Land Clearing – the burning for disposal of vegetative debris generated from the clearing of land for development;
- Recreational – means cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes;
- Storm or Flood Debris - the burning for disposal of vegetative debris generated from a storm or flood;
- Tumbleweed – the burning for disposal of dry plants that have been broken from the soil and rolled around by the wind;
- Weed Abatement – the burning for disposal of weeds not regulated as agricultural burning
- Ceremonial – fires necessary for Native American ceremonies, if part of a religious ritual;
- Fire Training – fires for the instruction of fire-fighting methods and for testing fire-fighting equipment;
- Agricultural - the burning for disposal of vegetative debris which is necessary to the carrying out of an agricultural operation;
- Other – burning of vegetative debris for other purposes like: burning necessary for rare and endangered plant regeneration and silvicultural (forest health) burning.

Urban Growth Areas - Of all the categories of burning mentioned above, only residential, tumbleweed and land clearing burning is prohibited inside Urban Growth Areas.

Prohibited Materials - With the exception of fire training, only natural vegetation may be burned in any outdoor fire.

Burn Bans - All the categories of burning mentioned above are prohibited during any stage of burn ban.

Daylight Hours - Other than fire training and recreational fires, all outdoor burning must be conducted during daylight hours, unless specifically authorized by permit.

Permits - A permit (either general rule, annual or burn specific) is required for all outdoor burning except tumbleweed burning, certain recreational burning and certain agricultural burning.

Containers - Burning in an uncertified container, such as a burn barrel, a manufactured backyard device, or any device not of concrete or masonry construction equipped with a spark arrestor is prohibited.

Proximity to Structures and Neighbors - Burning within 50 feet of a structure is prohibited. Burning which causes: a detriment to health safety or welfare of any person; a nuisance to neighbors; damage to property or business is prohibited.

Further information about outdoor burning may be obtained by calling or by writing:

Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency
186 Iron Horse Court
Suite 101
Yakima, WA 98901-2303
(509) 834-2050