

What is the Law?

The law states that even where burning is permitted, everyone should try to reduce burning to the greatest extent possible.



Why?

Even unprocessed natural vegetation such as lawn clippings, leaves and pine needles produces **air pollution** when burned. This includes **carbon monoxide** and **fine particles** which, when inhaled into the lungs, can have serious health effects.

Children, the elderly and those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions such as **asthma, emphysema and bronchitis** are the most vulnerable to poor air quality. Reducing air pollution is one way Ecology is working to decrease toxics in the environment.



For more information:

Washington Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue - Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
(509) 575-2490

**Toll-free Air Quality and Smoke
Complaint Line:
1-866-211-6284**

www.ecy.wa.gov/BreatheTheDifference

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If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6800. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

*Learn Before
You Burn*
in
**Central
Washington**

**A Resident's Guide to Outdoor
Burning Regulations and Resources
for Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas,
Klickitat, and Okanogan Counties**



What can I burn?

- If you live outside an Urban Growth Area (UGA)*, you can burn your yard and garden trimmings. You may burn one pile at a time. Your pile must be less than 4 feet wide by 3 feet high, and must be at least 50 feet from structures. Piles larger than this require an Ecology burn permit.
- Recreational fires such as campfires and barbeques are allowed. Only burn briquettes, propane, and bare, untreated, dry firewood.
- All other outdoor burning requires a permit. Contact Ecology and your local fire department for more information on permits required for your project.

* To find out if you are in an UGA, contact your local planning department.

When can I burn?

You must always notify your local fire department before you burn. You can call the Agricultural Burn Hotline or visit Ecology's website to find out if it is a good day to burn in your area.

What *can't* I burn?

- If you live in an UGA*, you may not burn residential or land clearing debris.
- You may not dispose of yard and garden trimmings in a recreational fire.
- **It is illegal** to burn **ANYTHING** in a **burn barrel**, including natural vegetation.
- It is illegal to do agricultural burning or land clearing burning without a permit.

* To find out if you are in an UGA, contact your local planning department.

What happens if I burn when I'm not supposed to?

You can be **fined up to \$10,000 per day, per violation!** Know the rules before you burn!

What are my alternatives?

- Compost or mulch yard waste and put the nutrients back into your yard.
- Call your local Solid Waste Department for recycling and transfer station information.
- See more alternatives in your area on Ecology's web site:
www.ecy.wa.gov/BreatheTheDifference



Who can I call for help?

See Ecology's website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/BreatheTheDifference

Washington Agricultural Burn Hotline
1-800-406-5322

Washington State
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
1-800-527-3305

Solid Waste Departments

Chelan	(509) 667-6415
Douglas	(509) 886-0899
Kittitas	(509) 962-7542
Klickitat	(509) 773-4448
Okanogan	(509) 422-2602

Planning Departments for Counties with Urban Growth Areas

Chelan	(509) 667-6415
Douglas	(509) 884-7173
Kittitas	(509) 962-7523