OPEN BURNING IN ARIZONA

Open burning is the practice of burning unwanted vegetation and other types of waste in the outdoors, and is regulated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

To promote safe and proper disposal of waste vegetation and other unwanted materials, Arizona has open burning requirements..

Why Do I Need An Open Burn Permit?

In most cases, when burning materials in the open, an Open Burn Permit from ADEQ is required by law. These laws are intended to help protect the public from smoke impacts. Unless specifically exempted by the rule, persons setting outdoor fires must obtain a permit from ADEQ or a delegated permitting authority. Two types of open burn permits are issued in Arizona: Normal and Dangerous Materials.

- To see permit types and a jurisdiction list for county open burn permit information visit:
  azdeq.gov/permits/openburn_fire_dept.pdf
- To apply for a Normal Open Burn Permit or Dangerous Materials Open Burn Permit visit:
  azdeq.gov/why-do-i-need-an-open-burn-permit-0

Can I Burn Trash?

No. Household trash should be disposed through waste collections. Under state law, burning household trash may be permitted if certain criteria are met.

Can I Use A Burn Barrel?

No, this is not allowed.

What Can I Burn In?

You may only burn in an approved waste burner. An approved waste burner is an incinerator constructed of fire-resistant material with a cover or screen that is closed when in use, and has opening in the sides or top no greater than one-inch in diameter.

What Should I Not Burn?

ALL PLASTIC MATERIALS:
Bottles for household chemicals; grocery and retail bags.

TOXIC VEGETATIVE MATERIALS:
Oleander, poison oak, poison ivy and poison sumac.

WASTE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS:
Waste crankcase oil, transmission oil, used oil and oil filters.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL:
Chemically treated wood, lead-painted wood, linoleum flooring, composite counter tops, asphalt shingles, tar paper, electrical wire, insulation, asbestos and thermal insulation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PRODUCTS:
Paints, pesticides, cleaners and solvents, stains and varnishes, flammable liquids, plastic pesticide bags and containers.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CONTAINERS THAT CONTAINED:
Lead compounds, cadmium compounds, mercury and arsenic compounds.

AUTOMOTIVE WASTE:
Tires and anti-freeze.

Why Is It Bad To Burn Waste Materials?

Burning waste materials, including yard waste, construction debris and garbage — especially if items contain plastics, rubber, paints or other synthetic materials — can produce a lot of smoke and many toxic pollutants including carbon monoxide, furans, dioxin and heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium. Smoke from open burning is a threat to public health, especially the health of children, the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma. Open burning is also a source of regional haze.

Good Burning Techniques

1. Minimize material to be burned
2. Prevent fire from spreading by lining the area where open burn is conducted and apply of fire retardant foam or water;
3. Allow material to dry before burning;
4. Minimize soil content in slash piles and by constructing piles under dry soil conditions or by using hand piling methods;
5. Burn in piles;
6. Use a back fire (burn in the opposite direction of wind) when grass is burned;
7. Extinguish smoldering burns;
8. Burn before litter falls;
9. Burn prior to precipitation

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