



ALLOWED TYPES OF OPEN BURNING

Fires must be kept to a minimum size for their intended purpose, and shall not be used for waste disposal purposes. This includes:

- cooking for human consumption (barbecues, campfires, cookouts)
- heating tar
- welding and acetylene torches
- heating for warmth of outdoor workers
- ceremonial fires can be set for limited periods of time, by notifying Ohio EPA in advance
- Under certain circumstances, fires set to train firefighters, to dispose of certain ignitable or explosive materials, or to dispose of poisons such as pesticides.
- Recognized horticultural, range, or habitat management practices, that involve burning, with permission from the Ohio EPA.

For a complete list of types of fires and their regulations, visit southwestohioair.org/openburn.

ALTERNATIVES TO OPEN BURNING

Some safe, effective, free and environmentally friendly alternatives:

Recycle!

You will dramatically reduce your garbage, thus saving space in landfills. You can recycle paper products, cardboard, plastics and aluminum.

Compost!

Create a space in your backyard for leaves, grass clippings, coffee grounds, tea bags, fruit and vegetable waste. To learn more about recycling and composting, and to download a free beginner's compost guide, visit HamiltonCountyR3Source.org.



WHO DO I CONTACT?

The Ohio EPA has the legal authority to enforce the open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. To request permission to burn, or to report a suspected illegal burn, contact the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency 513.946.7777 which serves Butler, Clinton, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency
southwestohioair.org

Ohio EPA
epa.ohio.gov

OPEN BURNING

Your guide to safe and legal open burning



Serving Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren counties in Ohio.

SouthwestOhioAir.org/OpenBurn

WHAT IS OPEN BURNING?

Anytime someone lights an uncontained, outdoor fire (not vented to a chimney or stack) it is considered open burning.



THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF OPEN BURNING

- Open fires 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 makes it more difficult to attain, or maintain, health-based air quality standards - especially in or near the major metropolitan centers.
- 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.



OPEN BURNING
RESTRICTIONS

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

DO NOT BURN:

Petroleum-based materials
rubber, grease, asphalt, tires, cars, auto parts; plastics

Garbage
any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking, or consuming food

Debris
construction and demolition

Treated Lumber

Dead animals

HELPFUL TIP

Prior to any open burning, the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency recommends contacting your local Fire Department.

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) |
|---|--|---|
| Recreational Fires - campfires and portable fire pits | Wood stack no longer than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Cannot be used for waste disposal purposes. Must use clean, seasoned firewood. | Wood stack no longer than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Cannot be used for waste disposal purposes. Must use clean, seasoned firewood. |
| Agricultural Waste | Agricultural waste generated on site and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, bursh, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but not buildings. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbors inhabited building. Must notify Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency in advance. | Agricultural waste generated on site and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, bursh, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but not buildings. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbors inhabited building. May require prior notification depending on fire size. |
| Land-Clearing Waste | Not permitted in city limits. | Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Requires written permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency - allow two weeks. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbors inhabited building. |
| Yard Trimmings - residential waste | Not permitted in city limits. | Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, and shrubbery that are generated at your residential property. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. May require notification. |
| Ceremonial Fires | Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than three hours. Must notify the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency. | Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than three hours. No notification required. |
| Occupational Fires - heating for warmth of outdoor workers | Use clean, seasoned wood. | Use clean, seasoned firewood. |
| Explosive Material's Disposal - firefighter training | Requires written permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency - allow two weeks. | Requires written permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency - allow two weeks. |
| Horticultural, Silvicultural Range or Wildlife Management Practices | Must notify the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency and post to the public. | Must notify the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency and post to the public. |
| Disease or Pest Control | Local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency that open burning is the only appropriate control method. Must notify the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency. | Local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency that open burning is the only appropriate control method. Must notify the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency. |
| *Villages and cities are considered "restricted areas," which include: 1 - within the boundaries of any municipal corporation, 2 - within corporation limits and a 1,000 foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000; and 3 - within corporation limits and a one-mile zone outside any municipal corporation with a population of more then 10,000. Call your local municipality for corporation boundaries. | | |