

*Alternatives to outdoor burning: Composting, chipping and recycling are viable alternatives to outdoor burning that create a resource instead of air pollution and solid waste problems.*

**Composting** is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and garden refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter like leaves, grass, weeds, and wood chips into a rich soil conditioner.



**Chipping** brush, prunings, land-clearing debris and wood waste makes an excellent mulch or substitute for decorative bark. Chips can protect soil and help keep weeds at bay. They can also be used to line garden paths and trails or provide a softer landing under playground equipment.



**Recycling/Reuse.** Many options are available in our area for recycling yard debris, wood, building scraps, pallets, and other types of materials such as paper, plastic, and metals. Contact the State Recycling Hotline at (800) 732-9253 or check the Yellow pages for services nearest you. For curb-side pick up of yard debris call (360) 737-2425 in Vancouver or contact Waste Connections at (360) 892-5370.



**Transfer Station/Landfill.** The Central Transfer Station will accept organic waste for a reasonable fee. Call (360) 256-8482 for more information and locations nearest you.

## SWCAA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SWCAA offers information and assistance to individuals, homeowners and businesses in the following areas:

### Public Information & Education

### Complaint Response & Enforcement

#### Outdoor Burning

#### Wood Stoves

#### Asbestos

#### Business Assistance

#### Air Operating Permits

#### New Source Permitting



The Southwest Clean Air Agency

11815 NE 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1294

Vancouver, WA 98682-2322

Phone (360) 574-3058

Fax (360) 576-0925

[www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org)

Rev. January 14, 2008

## SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

### *Outdoor Burning Information for Clark County*

To file a complaint, call 360-574-3058  
or visit [www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org).



# CLARK COUNTY BURN RULES

WAC 173-425 **bans** the use of a **burn barrel** and **prohibits** the burning of **all material**, except natural vegetation grown on the property and firewood (defined as bare, untreated wood, not dimensional lumber). This regulation also prohibits burning during periods of impaired air quality and prohibits outdoor burning from becoming a nuisance to surrounding neighbors and businesses. Fire safety burn bans may also be called by county or local fire protection authorities.

## Burn Barrel Use Prohibited

The use of a **burn barrel** was **banned** in the State of Washington effective April 13, 2000. **Burning garbage** has been **illegal** in the State of Washington since 1967.

## Recreational Fires

Recreational fires under 3'x3'x2' are still allowed in all of Clark County without a permit. Only charcoal or seasoned firewood (not lumber) may be used as fuel for a recreational fire. Recreational fires must be used solely for recreational purposes and may not be used for disposal of yard debris or any other material. Recreational fires may not cause a smoke or odor nuisance to surrounding properties. Recreational fires in excess of 3'x3'x2' need a special written permit from SWCAA.

## Residential Burning (Outside no-burn areas)

Residential burning is allowed in piles smaller than 10'x10'x6' with a permit **outside** the Clark County Urban Growth Areas and the southern Clark County No Burn Area. To determine if you live outside a No Burn Area, call SWCAA at (360) 574-3058. Residential burn permits can usually be picked up at a local fire department and are generally free. If your area does not provide these permits you can call the

Clark County Fire Marshal at (360) 397-2186 for permit locations.

## Land Clearing Burning (Outside the no-burn boundaries)

For piles larger than 10'x10'x6' and land clearing operations a written permit and site inspection is required. You need to fill out a land clearing permit application prior to scheduling the site inspection with the Clark County Fire Marshal. Depending on the time of year it can take up to a week to schedule the site inspection so please submit your application in advance. Call (360) 397-2186 for the nearest office location. There is a permit fee. As of January 1, 2007 land clearing burning was prohibited in all urban growth areas and their city limits.

## Agricultural Burning

To qualify for agricultural burning inside the no-burn boundaries you must have filed a Schedule F with your federal income tax. Orchard prunings alone do not qualify for an agricultural burn and other restrictions apply (WAC 173-430). Call SWCAA for detailed information, forms and possible fees.

## Areas Where Burning Is Permanently Banned

**1990:** South Clark County non-attainment area.  
**2001:** Battle Ground Urban Growth Area and portions of the Vancouver-Camas-Washougal Urban Growth Areas that extend beyond the non-attainment area.  
**2007:** Urban Growth Areas of Ridgefield, La Center and Yacolt.

Under the provisions of the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act, the southern portion of Clark County exceeded federal standards for carbon monoxide (CO) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). This required a ban on outdoor burning within the designated non-attainment area and restrictions on auto emissions and industrial pollutants. The area has since achieved attainment status and was designated a

CO/O<sub>3</sub> maintenance area. However, the restrictions remain in place to assure continuing attainment and compliance with the FCAA.

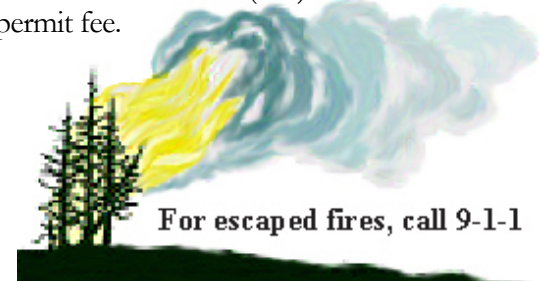
With the revision of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-425 in 2000, Washington's outdoor burning rules were amended as follows: On January 1, 2001 outdoor burning was prohibited in the Urban Growth Areas of cities with a population of greater than 5,000. Prohibitions also applied in adjacent areas with a population density of one thousand or more persons per square mile and areas with a reasonable alternative to burning. As of January 1, 2007 urban growth areas for incorporated cities with populations < 5,000 also became no burn areas. These rules affect Clark County as follows:

The southern Clark County no-burn area was expanded to include portions of the Vancouver, Camas and Washougal urban growth areas that extend beyond the original non-attainment area. The Battle Ground no burn area was created within the boundaries of its urban growth area. **On January 1, 2007 the urban growth areas of Ridgefield, Yacolt and La Center became no burn areas.** All residential and land clearing burning is prohibited in these areas. For more information about these changes, call SWCAA at (360) 574-3058.

**Into the future, as Urban Growth Areas change, so will the no burn areas.**

## Silvicultural Burning

For all silvicultural/forest practice burning call the Pacific Cascades Region of the Department of Natural Resources at (360) 577-2025. There is a permit fee.



**For escaped fires, call 9-1-1**