

*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 wood and building scraps, pallets, cardboard and other paper products, and even some types of plastic. Contact the Department of Solid Waste/Recycling 360-577-3361 or the State Recycling Hotline at 1-800-732-9253 for options in your area.

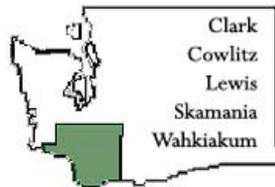


Transfer Station/Landfill. The Cowlitz County landfill will accept organic waste for a reasonable fee. Call (360) 577-3126 for more information.

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**



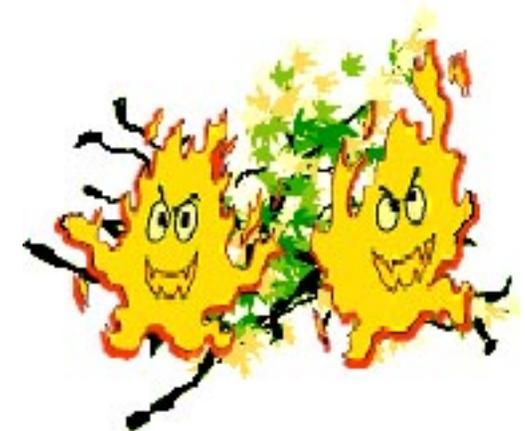
The Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th Street, Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA 98662-2322
Phone (360) 574-3058
Fax (360) 576-0925
www.swcleanair.org

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SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Outdoor Burning Information for Cowlitz County

To file a complaint,
call 1-800-633-0709
or visit www.swcleanair.org.



COWLITZ 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 Cowlitz County without a permit. Only charcoal or seasoned firewood (no 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 and are subject to burn bans. Recreational fires larger than 3'x3'x2' inside no burn areas need a written permit from the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA).

Residential Burning (Outside the no burn areas)

As of January 1, 2007 residential burning is no longer allowed in the urban growth areas of Castle Rock and Woodland. Residential burning is already banned within the Longview/Kelso No Burn Area. Outside of these areas, single piles under 4'x4'x3' do not need a permit to burn during daylight hours (natural vegetation only). For a list of general requirements or to determine if you are outside of the no burn areas, call SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

Piles larger than 4'x4'x3' but smaller than 10'x10'x6' outside the no burn areas need a written permit. These free permits can be picked up at local fire stations, downloaded from our website at www.swcleanair.org or mailed to you by calling SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

Land Clearing Burning (Outside the no burn areas)

As of January 1, 2007, land clearing burning is prohibited within the urban growth areas of Castle Rock and Woodland, and within the Longview/Kelso No Burn Area.

Outside the no burn areas, burn piles larger than 10'x10'x6' require a land clearing burn permit from SWCAA. The burn permit application can be printed from our website at www.swcleanair.org and then mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to SWCAA. A site visit is no longer required so a permit can be issued same day with a visit to SWCAA's office in Vancouver. The permit fee of \$100 must be paid to SWCAA prior to issuance of the permit.

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 Not Allowed

Effective January 1, 2001 WAC 173-425 prohibited outdoor burning in Urban Growth Areas with populations greater than 5,000. Prohibitions also applied to adjacent areas with a population density of 1,000 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.

Burning was permanently banned, with the exception of recreational fires under 3'x3'x2', within the Expanded No Burn Area of Longview/Kelso on January 1, 2001.

As of January 1, 2007 Castle Rock, Woodland and their surrounding urban growth areas became no burn areas with the exception of recreational fires under 3'x3'x2' (no lumber, yard debris or garbage). These no burn areas may change in the future as urban growth boundaries change. Land clearing burning is prohibited in all areas of the state with a population density of >1,000 people per square mile as of January 1, 2007. For more information, call SWCAA at 1-800-633-0709.

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