

## 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.** 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 State Recycling Hotline at (800) 732-9253 or check the yellow pages for services near you.



**Transfer Station/Landfill.** The Cowlitz County Solid Wastes Utility will accept organic waste and all refuse for a reasonable fee. Call (360) 577-3126 for more information and location.

## 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



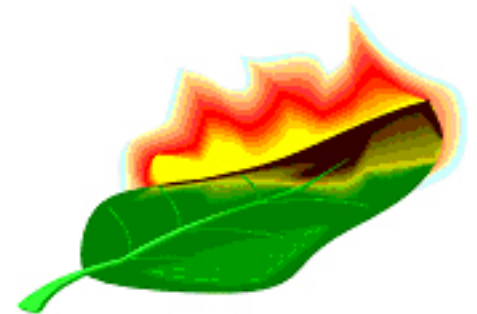
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## SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

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### *Outdoor Burning Information for Wahkiakum County*



# WAHKIAKUM COUNTY BURN PERMITS INFORMATION

The Southwest Clean Air Agency regulation SWCAA 425 regulates outdoor burning for the purposes of minimizing air pollution impacts. The regulation **bans** burning in **burn barrels, prohibits** the burning of **all material**, except natural vegetation grown on the property and fire wood (defined as bare, untreated wood, not dimensional lumber), prohibits burning during periods of impaired air quality, and prohibits outdoor burning from becoming a nuisance to neighbors.

## Burn Barrel Use Prohibited

The use of a **burn barrel** was **banned** in the State of Washington effective April 13, 2000.

## Prohibited Materials

**Burning garbage** has been **illegal** in the State of Washington since 1967. Prohibited materials include garbage, appliances, treated wood, dimensional lumber, dead animals and more. Open burning of rubbish containing paper products is prohibited. All outdoor fires shall be restricted to natural vegetation. All other material is prohibited except what paper is necessary to ignite the burning process.

## Recreational fires

Recreational fires under 4'x4'x3', using charcoal or firewood (not lumber), are still allowed in all of Wahkiakum County without a permit. Recreational fires in excess of 4'x4'x3' need a large fire permit. Contact Chuck Beyer for a permit at (360) 795-3067 or toll free at (360) 465-2654. There is no fee for the large fire permit. Recreational fires may not be used for debris disposal and are typically suspended during fire safety burn-bans.

## Residential Burning

Piles under 4'x4'x3' **need** a small fire permit. These permits can usually be picked up at a local fire department or town hall. If your area does not provide these permits you can call the Public Works Department at (360) 795-3301 or toll free at (360) 465-2654 to request a copy of the permit. There is currently no fee for the permit.

## Land Clearing Burning

For piles larger than 4'x4'x3' and land clearing operations you need to call Chuck Beyer at (360) 795-3067 or toll free at (360) 465-2654 to request a large fire permit. There is currently no permit fee.

## 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.

## Areas Where Burning Is Not Allowed.

WAC 173-425-040(3)(4)(5) prohibits outdoor burning in cities with a population of greater than 10,000, adjacent areas with a population density of one thousand or more persons per square mile, and areas with a reasonable alternative to burning.

Currently there are no areas in Wahkiakum County that meet any of these criteria.

## Safety Practices

At residential burning sites, a garden hose connected to a steady water supply and other standard fire-extinguishing equipment, such as a shovel, must be readily available for use. Burning materials must be constantly attended by an adult. The attendant must be in possession of the written self-issuing permit from SWCAA.

At land clearing burning sites, all of the requirements of the site-specific land clearing burning permit from SWCAA must be strictly followed.

*For Escaped Fires Call 911*

