

## There are alternatives...

Throughout our region, and particularly wherever outdoor burning is prohibited, alternatives to burning are available. These alternatives include home composting, curbside pick-up of yard waste for recycling, drop boxes, transfer stations and recycling facilities. Call your county solid waste department for information about what alternatives are available in your area.

King County Solid Waste Division  
(206) 296-4466

Kitsap County Solid Waste  
(360) 337-5777 or (800) 825-4940

Pierce County Solid Waste  
(253) 798-2179

Snohomish County Solid Waste  
(425) 388-3425

Produced by:



206.343.8800 | 800.552.3565  
www.pscleanair.org

Form No. 30-25 | Revised June 2009



## In many areas...



...what about where you live?

Are you willing to risk \$16,000 per day in fines?

Get the facts before you burn...



## In Washington State...

- It's always illegal to use a **BURN BARREL.**
- It's always illegal to burn prohibited materials including
  - Garbage or refuse
  - Cardboard or paper (except what's necessary to start the fire)
  - Building materials, including paints, vinyl flooring, roofing and scrap lumber
  - Rubber products, including tires
  - Plastics or petroleum products
  - Dead animals
  - Any other material that creates smoke that is offensive or harmful to your neighbors
- It's always illegal to smoke out your neighbor

If they complain, you are required to put the fire out immediately.

## Washington State law prohibits residential burning in urbanized areas

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has adopted state outdoor burning regulations (found in Agency Regulation 1, Article 8) and enforces them in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

Why is outdoor burning prohibited for most of us? Because breathing smoke is bad for your health, particularly for children, people over 50 and anyone with asthma or other respiratory problems.

## Land-clearing fires are prohibited throughout our region

Land-clearing fires are no longer allowed in King, Pierce or Snohomish counties, and will be banned in Kitsap County effective Sept. 1, 2009. Under state law, developers are required to use alternatives such as:

- On-site chipping and removal
- Off-site wood waste recycling



## Check first with your local fire department

Before burning, contact your local fire department to determine if burning is allowed in your area. If it is, ask about permit requirements and any other local requirements or restrictions.

## Residential yard-debris burning

Where burning is allowed, fires are limited to vegetative material grown on the property, such as leaves, branches and twigs. Check with your fire department for permit requirements.

## Hauled material

Outdoor fires cannot include material hauled from another property unless it is seasoned firewood.

## Agricultural burning

Agricultural burning permits are available only to farmers who can demonstrate through tax records that they run a commercial agricultural operation and that the burning is necessary or meets criteria for best management practices. For more information on agricultural burning permits, call (206) 343-8800 or (800) 552-3565.

## Recreational fires

Even within the urbanized no-burn areas, recreational fires are allowed on your own private property and in designated locations in some public parks. According to state rules (WAC 173-425-030), the term "recreational

fires" means "cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes." Fires lit in chimineas, fire pits, fire bowls and similar free-standing devices, commonly sold at home-improvement stores and mass retailers, fall under this definition. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

Please check with your local

fire department before lighting a recreational fire, as setback requirements can vary, and some fire departments require a permit for all recreational fires. Further, a permit is required for "recreational fires with a total fuel area greater than three feet in diameter and/or two feet in height."

If you're thinking about burning outdoors, here's what you need to know...

Violations of outdoor burning regulations can be costly. Fines can exceed \$16,000 per day and typically start at \$2,000 plus reimbursement costs for fire department responses.



## Temporary burn bans

If a fire-safety burn ban is in place (typically called in the summer), or if an air-quality burn ban is called (typically in the fall and winter), outdoor fires are prohibited on public and private property. Call your local fire department and (800) 595-4341 for burn ban information.

## Online resources

For more information about health effects from breathing smoke, visit the American Lung Association of Washington Web site at [www.alaw.org](http://www.alaw.org). For text of regulations and additional information, visit the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Web site at [www.pscleanair.org](http://www.pscleanair.org).

## And remember...

**Always check with your local fire department before starting any outdoor fire!**

