

## What is the Law?

The law states that even where burning is permitted, everyone should try to reduce burning to the greatest extent possible.



## Why?

Even unprocessed natural vegetation such as lawn clippings, leaves and pine needles produce **air pollutants** when burned.

This includes **carbon monoxide** and **fine particulates** which, when inhaled into the lungs, can have serious health impacts.

Children, the elderly and those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions such as **asthma, emphysema and bronchitis** are the most vulnerable to poor air quality. Reducing air pollution is one way Ecology is working to decrease toxics in the environment.



For more information:

Washington Department of Ecology  
Eastern Regional Office  
N. 4601 Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
(509) 329-3400

**Toll-free Air Quality and  
Smoke Complaint Line:  
1-866-211-6284**

[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

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If you need this document in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6830. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.

# Learn Before You Burn

in

## Northeastern Washington

A Resident's Guide to Outdoor  
Burning Regulations and Resources  
for Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille  
Counties



## What can I burn?

- In many areas, no residential burning is allowed. However, in some rural areas, you can burn yard and garden debris such as leaves and clippings. Piles must be no larger than 4 feet wide by 3 feet high and must be *at least* fifty feet away from structures. Piles larger than this require a burn permit.
- Recreational fires such as campfires and barbeques. Only burn briquettes, propane, and bare, untreated, dry firewood.
- Debris from land you own. This includes land clearing burning and pasture management, and **you must have a permit to burn.**

## When can I burn?

You can burn year-round, excluding times when a burn ban has been issued by either Ecology or your local fire department. You must **always** notify your local fire department when you are planning on burning, but you can also call the Agricultural Burn Hotline to find out if it is a good day to burn in your area.

## What *can't* I burn?



- Residential and land clearing burning are banned in: Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, Newport, Usk, Colville, Chewelah, Kettle Falls, Marcus, Addy, Clayton, Hunters, Lake Spokane, Valley, Northport, Springdale, and Republic and their surrounding Urban Growth Areas\*.
- You may not dispose of yard debris in a recreational fire.
- Burning ANYTHING in a burn barrel, including natural vegetation, is illegal. This is because a barrel limits the amount of oxygen that can get to a fire, which results in incomplete combustion and lots of smoke.
- It is illegal to do agricultural burning or land clearing burning without a permit.

*\*The Urban Growth Areas include the city limits and an area around each city. For more information about Urban Growth Areas, consult your local planning department.*

## What happens if I burn when I'm not supposed to?

You can be **fined up to \$10,000** per day, per violation! Illegal outdoor burning is one of the most common air quality violations. It pays to know the rules before you burn!

## Who can I call for help?



Washington Agricultural Burn Hotline

1-800-406-5322

Washington State

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

1-800-527-3305

Ferry County Solid Waste

(509) 775-5217

Stevens County Public Works

(509) 738-6106

Pend Oreille County Public Works

(509) 447-4513

**Contact your local fire department before starting any outdoor fire.**